FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-036
Thursday
23 February 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-036 *23 February 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Talks on Elections Continue 1
'Urayqat on International Supervision *[Jericho VOP]* 1
No 'Tangible Progress' Reported *[MENA]* 1
Israeli Negotiator on PLO Executive Decisions *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1
Palestinian Delegation Leaves *[MENA]* 2
Syria Sees U.S. Credibility 'in Critical Position' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Feb]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Countries To Seek Total Nuclear Ban, Guarantees *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 18 Feb]* 3
Arab League Drafts Middle East Nuclear Treaty *[AL-ITTIHAD 15 Feb]* 3

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 15 Feb 6

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Relations With Israel, Opposition *[London AL-HAYAH 21 Feb]* 7
PLO Executive Committee To Reconsider Peace Process
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Feb] 11
PLO Executive Body Official on Interim Arrangement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
PLO Official in London Views Peace Process Stalemate
[Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES 21 Feb] 13
Official Says Israel To Propose Annex of Negev Lands *[AL-QUDS 21 Feb]* 13
Official on Arab Refusal To Recognize Passport *[Jericho VOP]* 14
'Terror' Squad Uncovered in Gaza; Nabulus Houses Reopened *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Abu-Nidal Men Reportedly Held for Interrogation *[Jericho VOP]* 14
Shaykh Yasin Says Coexistence With PA Possible *[AL-QUDS 20 Feb]* 14
DFLP Denies Reported Plans To Move to Moscow *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Feb]* 14
New Body Opposed to Oslo Accord Founded in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Grouping Calls On 'Arafat To 'Admit Failure,' Resign *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 15

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Minister Announces Serkadji Prison Mutiny Quelled *[Algiers Radio]* 16
98 Prisoners Killed in Prison Mutiny *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
Alleged Boudiaf Assassin Reportedly Injured *[Paris International]* 17
Dembri Tells Libyan Paper Algeria Rejects Interference *[JANA]* 17

Egypt

Musa on Talks With 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee *[MENA]* 17
Israeli Foreign Minister Peres Meets With Leaders 18
Mubarak Receives Peres *[MENA]* 18
Peres-Mubarak Discuss Process *[MENA]* 18

Musa Meets With Peres *[MENA]* 18
Government Proposes 3 NPT Scenarios to Israel *[London AL-HAYAH 22 Feb]* 18
U.S. Criticized for Not Pressuring Israel on NPT *[MENA]* 19
Editor Reacts to Rabin's 'Insolent' 'Lying' *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 15 Feb]* 20
Article Alleges Israeli Anti-Musa Campaign *[AL-MUSAWWAR 17 Feb]* 21
Al-Baz Rules Out Tension in U.S., Israeli Ties *[MENA]* 23
Citizenship for Palestinian Residents Requested *[INA]* 23
Columnist Rejects NATO's Security Proposal *[AL-AHRAM 15 Feb]* 23
Policeman Killed; 2 Others Wounded in al-Minya *[MENA]* 24

Libya

UN Asked To Investigate U.S. Human Rights Violations *[Tripoli TV]* 24
U.S. 'Successive Blows' to 'Palestine' Seen *[JANA]* 24
JANA Arab Editor Comments on Ibrahimi Massacre *[Tripoli Radio]* 25
Israeli 'Plotting' Assailed *[JANA]* 25

Morocco

Ministry Denies Part in Arab-Israeli Naval Exercise *[MAP]* 26

Sudan

Government Denies Entry to Belgian Archbishop *[Omdurman Radio]* 27
People's Army Dismisses 'Dictatorial' Leader *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Feb]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi-Yemeni Border Talks Go On Until 'Progress is Made'
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Feb] 28

Bahrain

Prime Minister Discusses GCC Ties, Riots *[WAKH]* 28

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Leaves France for London *[Kuwait Radio]* 30

Oman

Qatari-Bahraini Efforts To Resolve Border Dispute Welcomed *[Muscat Radio]* 30

Saudi Arabia

'Arafat Arrives in Jeddah for Minor Pilgrimage *[Jericho VOP]* 30
Meets With King Fahd *[SPA]* 30
Syria's al-Shar' Gives King Fahd Message *[SPA]* 30

Yemen

Prime Minister Reports on Saudi Border Talks *[Amman Radio]* 31

IRAQ

UN's Rolf Ekeus Concludes Talks, Departs *[INA]* 32
More on al-Samarra'i Letter to Ekeus *[London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation]* 32
Commission's Stand Called 'Shaky' *[INA]* 32
U.S. Daily's Call To Lift Oil Ban Praised *[INA]* 33
Citizens Consuming Half Normal Food Requirements *[INA]* 33
Blockade Blamed for High Child Death Rate *[AL-'IRAQ 11 Feb]* 33

Qatari Ship Arrives With Sugar Donations at Umm Qasr *[INA]* 34
Country To Print Abroad Due to Paper Scarcity *[AL-'IRAQ 10 Feb]* 34
Ministry Meets 'Increasing' Demand for Butane *[AL-QADISIYAH 11 Feb]* 34
'Unfair' Embargo Blamed for 2,971 Deaths in Karbala *[BABIL 6 Feb]* 34
Power To Be Cut Off If Grids Vandalized *[AL-THAWRAH 13 Feb]* 34
Foreign Ministry Reaffirms Release of Iran POW's *[INA]* 35
Commander Claims Coalition Air Cover in Iranian Raid *[AL-DUSTUR 22 Feb]* 35
Iranian 'Counterrevolutionaries' Killed in Baghdad *[IRNA]* 35
Paper Views Public Opposition to Iranian Leadership *[AL-THAWRAH 6 Feb]* 36
Religious Figures Cable Talabani, Barzani To End Fighting *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 36
Daily Outlines 'Miserable' Conditions Facing Kurds *[AL-'IRAQ 7 Feb]* 36
KDP Charged With 'Indiscriminately' Shelling Rawanduz *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 37
PUK Claims KDP Shelling Kills 6 in Kurdistan *[AFP]* 37
Kurds Urged To Stage 'Massive' Uprising in North *[INA]* 37
Doors 'Wide Open' To Demonstrate Loyalty to Kurdistan *[INA]* 37
*Editorial on Opening of French Interest Section *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 8 Jan]* 38
*Russia's Importance, Role Analyzed, Emphasized *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 1 Jan]* 40

ISRAEL

AL-HAYAH Interviews Peres on Security, Peace *[19 Feb]* 42
Peres on NPT Talks in Cairo, Christopher Efforts *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 44
Peres, Mubarak Fail To Reach Agreement on NPT *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Sources Express 'Shock' Over FRG's Iran Move *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 23 Feb]* 44
Concern Expressed Over Libya, Egypt Joining UNSC *[MA'ARIV 21 Feb]* 45
Rabin Moves To Stop Golan Bill, Remarks on Closure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
No-Confidence Motion Filed Over Closure Lifting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Netanyahu Notes Objections to 'Janin First' Proposal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Peres Defends 'Janin First' Idea in Knesset Debate *[HA'ARETZ 23 Feb]* 47
Security Units To Guard Public Transportation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
IDF Analysts: Lebanese Army 'Actively' Helping Hizballah *[HA'ARETZ 21 Feb]* 47
Gen. Levin: IDF To Fight Hizballah 'Guerrilla Warfare' *['AL HAMISHMAR 20 Feb]* 48
Officers Assess Syrian Reluctance To Confront Hizballah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Joint Patrols To Take Over IDF Duties in West Bank Towns *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Feb]* 48
Investigation Under Way of Settler-Police Patrols *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 49
Police Present Proposals To Increase Jerusalem Security *[HA'ARETZ 20 Feb]* 49
Cooperation With West Against Islamic 'Terrorism' Increases *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 22 Feb]* 50
YI'UD Said Breaking Up as Party, Knesset Faction *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Feb]* 50
New Ambassadorial Appointments Announced *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Feb]* 50

JORDAN

Interior Minister Meets With Party Leaders *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Feb]* 51
Further on Meeting *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Feb]* 52
Al-Kabariti Telephoned by Egyptian Counterpart *[Amman Radio]* 53
Syrian Foreign Minister Accused of Interfering *[London AL-HAYAH 21 Feb]* 53
Talks on Returning Palestinian Students to Syria *[AL-BILAD 22 Feb]* 53
Amman To Continue Issuing Passports to Palestinians *[AL-MAJD 20 Feb]* 53
ICRC Group Visits 'Jordanian Afghans' Convicts *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Feb]* 54
Paper Criticizes Opposition Boycott of Parliament *[JORDAN TIMES 22 Feb]* 54
Paper Assails Israel Stand on NPT, Backs Egypt *[AL-DUSTUR 22 Feb]* 55
Information Ministry 'Official Spokesman' Appointed *[AL-RA'Y 18 Feb]* 55

LEBANON

Israeli Operation Said 'Imminent'; Villages Bombed *[Beirut Radio]* 56
'Violent' Clashes Detailed *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 56
Attacks Thwarted; No Casualties *[Voice of the South]* 56
Sidon Under Blockade; Casualties Cited *[VOL]* 57
Fadlallah: Israel Staging Raids To Raise Morale *[Beirut Radio]* 57
Iranian Official Meets Birri, Views Regional Events *[Beirut Radio]* 57

Claims No Information on Pilot *[IRNA]* 57
U.S. Questions on Security Arrangements Detailed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Feb]* 58
Amal Leader Warns Against 'Zionist,' U.S. 'Schemes' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 58
Buwayz Warns of Dangers in Delaying Peace Process *[MENA]* 58
Al-Hariri Says Israeli Pressure 'Useless' *[Beirut Radio]* 59

SYRIA

'Sources': No Signing of NPT Unless Israel Signs *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 60
Israeli Refusal Fueling 'Pessimism' *[Damascus Radio]* 60
Commentary on Alleged Arab-Israeli Exercises *[Damascus TV]* 60
Calls for 'New Middle East,' Normalization Criticized *[Damascus Radio]* 61

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

UN Peace Efforts To Continue Until 1 Mar *[Kabul Radio]* 63
*'New' Brand of Mojahedin Rising *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-ARABI 6 Jan]* 63
'Over 400' Golboddin Men Defect to Government Army *[Kabul Radio]* 65
Government Forces Reportedly Seize Border Port *[Kabul Radio]* 65
Unity Party Will Not Disarm While 'Threatened' *[Tehran International]* 66

India

CSO Releases Growth Rate Projections *[BUSINESS STANDARD 15 Feb]* 66
Rao Defends Foreign Investment in Infrastructure *[Delhi Radio]* 66
Problems of Northeast Industrialization Viewed *[BUSINESS LINE 15 Feb]* 67
Towers Being Built To Boost Communication Network *[Delhi Radio]* 67
Sri Lanka Offered $8 Million Line of Credit *[Delhi Radio]* 67
NPT Extension Linked to U.S. Disarmament Efforts *[THE PIONEER 14 Feb]* 67
Delegate Assails Pakistan at Human Rights Commission *[Delhi Radio]* 68
Five Border Officers Killed in 'Militant Ambush' *[Delhi Radio]* 69
Demonstration Held To Protest Pakistani Ruling *[Delhi TV]* 69

Iran

Foreign Ministry Denies Reports of Talks With Israel *[IRNA]* 69
Reports Said 'Propaganda Ploy' *[Tehran TV]* 70
Jerusalem Day Events Planned *[Tehran Radio]* 70
Diplomatic Delegation Arrives in Lebanon *[IRNA]* 71
Commentary Views NATO's 'Spurious' Propaganda *[SALAM 13 Feb]* 71
Japan 'Committed' to Karun Dam Loan *[IRNA]* 73
Local 'Experts' Repair Power Station *[Tehran Radio]* 73
Statistics Released on Non-Oil Exports *[IRNA]* 73
Divorce Rate Jumps 82% in Hamedan Province *[Tehran TV]* 74

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Talks on Elections Continue

'Urayqat on International Supervision

JN2102194495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has said that the Palestinian and Israeli sides to the talks on the legislative elections have agreed on the issue of international supervision of elections in the West Bank and Gaza. Following a session of talks in Cairo today, 'Urayqat said that the Palestinian side might agree on a coordination role by the EU within the framework of the international supervision, instead of the United Nations.

Minister 'Urayqat said that the Israeli side did not propose anything that would conflict with our proposal regarding the international supervision of the elections, which will not be held before the relocation of the Israeli occupation forces in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

Yo'el Singer, head of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks, said that both sides achieved significant progress in all fields.

No 'Tangible Progress' Reported

NC2202164495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—The 11th round of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza were concluded this afternoon without making tangible progress. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority [PA] and head of the Palestinian delegation, stressed the importance of holding the elections in conjunction with the redeployment of Israeli forces. He noted that there is an agreement in this respect between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He held Israel responsible for the failure to make progress in the peace process. He stressed that Israeli practices place obstacles in the way of the peace process. He said that the latest such obstacles were the announcement of the establishment of 1,800 housing units, the economic blockade on the Palestinian territory, and failure to implement the clauses of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement regarding the crossing points, goods, and safe passages.

Dr. 'Urayqat reported that during this latest round of negotiations, he submitted six papers and asked the Israeli delegation to share in drawing up a joint draft of an interim agreement, which would then be referred to Palestinian and Israeli decision makers. He explained that the papers he submitted referred to international supervision of the elections and the locations where the international supervisors would be stationed. He added that he submitted a complete Palestinian view on this issue and said that a debate was conducted about the makeup and nature of the proposed Palestinian legislative council, but regrettably no agreement was reached.

'Urayqat remarked that the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track is not a bilateral process but a peace effort based on international standards and with the participation of 182 countries, represented at the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in Washington.

He affirmed that failure on the Palestinian-Israeli track will cause the entire peace process to collapse because the Palestinian issue is the key to a political settlement in the region.

The chairman of the Palestinian delegation praised Egypt's backing for the peace process and its efforts to give it more momentum. He referred in particular to the efforts made by the Egyptian diplomatic establishment in this connection, notably the meeting that was held in Washington on 12 February and the earlier Cairo four-way summit on 2 February.

'Urayqat pointed out that the EU has supported the peace process and said that it is necessary for the PLO Executive Committee to inform Arab and foreign capitals of the most recent developments in the negotiations and explain to them the Palestinian attitude and any future course it might follow. He said that Palestinian delegations will leave for Japan, the United States, and China to brief officials there on the facts of the situation.

'Urayqat asserted that the negotiations are not an end in themselves. He said that the aim is to implement the Palestinian- Israeli agreement and draw up a timetable for implementing it. He pointed out that eight months have passed and nothing has been done yet.

Yo'el Singer, chairman of the Israeli delegation, said that the two sides are making efforts to reach an agreement. He added that he will meet with 'Urayqat in Jericho or in Israel next week for further discussions. 'Urayqat denied this, however, and said no date has been set for such a meeting.

The chairman of the Israeli delegation added that the elections will be held 60 days after the final agreement is signed between the two sides. However, he pointed out that the negotiations with the Palestinian Authority currently are not at their best.

Israeli Negotiator on PLO Executive Decisions

TA2202175995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the decision by the PLO Executive Committee in Cairo today, Yo'el Singer, head of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks on elections in the territories, said that Israel will not give in to pressure and that the negotiations will not deviate from their preset timetable. Our Arab affairs correspondent Oren Kohen spoke to Singer and asked him about

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the progress made in the negotiations concerning the implementation of the second phase of the autonomy accords.

[Begin recording] [Singer] We went into many details, we exchanged papers, and we—Sa'ib 'Urayqat and myself—agreed to meet again tete-a-tete somewhere in the region before the next session in Cairo in two weeks.

[Kohen] What sort of understandings did you reach?

[Singer] We are not dealing with the tough issues first, but rather with the easier ones. Naturally then, we did not deal with dramatic topics.

[Kohen] It follows from what you say that the main disagreements remain unsolved.

[Singer] The main disagreements are naturally being reserved for last, although one chief disagreement—whether one or two sets of elections will be held—has already been settled. This is an achievement which will definitely spur the talks in the next few weeks.

[Kohen] The PLO Executive Committee convened at the same time as talks between Israel and the Palestinians. What was its effect on the talks?

[Singer] I did not feel the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Cairo had any impact on our talks. The talks were neither postponed, canceled, nor overshadowed. We proceeded exactly according to the preset timetable and held our meeting on schedule. I think that if anything had an effect, then it was our meeting on the PLO Executive Committee session in Cairo. To wit, Sa'ib 'Urayqat was summoned last night to brief it about the progress we had made. I understood from him that what he told them was that our talks here are definitely beneficial and that we have made progress. I assume that part of his report influenced the Executive Committee members to approve the continuation of the talks.

[Kohen] The bottom line of the PLO Executive Committee's resolution was a call on the Arab governments to step up their pressure, as reflected in the meeting between President Mubarak and 'Arafat today. How do you feel about the emergence of this anti-Israel diplomatic front in Cairo?

[Singer] I do not feel any pressure or any change in attitude. I do not need any and we are not influenced by pressure. We entered these negotiations with the intention of holding candid discussions about elections in the territories, which is the issue I am in charge of at the moment. We are conducting the negotiations in accordance with the pace we decided upon together. We are advancing rapidly and dealing with any issue we can deal with. Pressure will not affect us, either positively or adversely. [end recording]

Palestinian Delegation Leaves

NC2302073395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2246 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—The Palestinian delegation taking part in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations left Cairo tonight after a two-day visit to Egypt during which it participated in the 10th round of negotiations, which concluded today in Cairo.

This round of negotiations addressed the Palestinian legislative elections, which are supposed to be held in accordance with the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles.

Syria Sees U.S. Credibility 'in Critical Position'

MM2202172895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Feb 95 p 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syrian Official Expresses Dissatisfaction With United States and Urges It To Honor Its Promises on Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Syria is showing noticeable displeasure with the current U.S. position on peace in the Middle East and with its approach to the question of ending the clear deadlock in the peace process. Syrian officials believe that the U.S. Administration now tackles the peace process on seasonal and sometimes unjustified and incomprehensible grounds, and that is why it should fulfill its promises.

A Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the U.S. Administration's practices appear to be in disharmony with the U.S. commitment to the peace process and to work for progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel; and the U.S. Administration is also overlooking the party responsible for jeopardizing the peace process and obstructing the UN efforts in that respect while real dangers are beginning to threaten the peace process. Observers do not rule out the possibility of the tragic collapse of that process if international circles do not quickly act to rescue it and compel Israel, the hindering and rejecting party, to respond to and comply with the UN resolutions and withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories.

The Syrian official added that, as all officials who visited Damascus and met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials know, Syria has always demonstrated a willingness and desire to establish peace and its demands are just and clear, for Syria is only demanding its right to a return of the occupied territories, which is a natural right acknowledged by the United Nations and its Security Council and the whole world. Even the United States, he said, had committed itself to peace. According to the same official, Syria realizes the importance of establishing peace in accordance with the U.S. wish and the U.S. initiative, so that bilateral relations could take special and firm steps forward in the future in the interests of both countries. When Syria agreed to raise the level of the military dialogue to the maximum required in such a dialogue with the prospect of making progress as far as withdrawal from the Golan and the required arrangements were concerned, that was an indication of the Syrian response to the U.S. wish, the aim being to push the wheel of the negotiations forward.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Syrian official said that Israel has again been procrastinating and beating about the bush, preventing continuation of the dialogue. The exchange-of-views rounds have stopped. These rounds would have become an end in themselves as a result of the continuous Israeli demands. That is what Israel wants, for these dialogues to become some form of normalization that would be a substitute for peace and cancel the foundations of the peace process which is conditional on Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon.

In conclusion, the official said that Syria believed that unless the United States offered something new that would commit Israel, there would be no point in any dialogue and the peace process would become a futile, aimless process, and that is why the situation now depended on what the U.S. will offer, for the U.S. Administration is urged to enhance the peace process and honor its delcared commitments to that process, and also fulfill the undertakings announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva and then in Damascus. U.S. credibility, he said, is now in a very critical position and could crack if it cannot prove itself in the face of the Israeli defiance not only of the region but also of the U.S. Administration itself.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Countries To Seek Total Nuclear Ban, Guarantees

NC2202214495 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Umar]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab countries are considering the adoption of a united stance against Israel's insistence not to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The Arab League has prepared a draft plan of a proposed regional treaty to keep the Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction. President Mubarak previously announced that Egypt does not feel safe as long as Israel's nuclear arsenal remains without inspection and remarked that all Egypt wants is for Israel to sign the NPT.

The Arab foreign ministers will meet in Cairo on 22 March to discuss and approve an agenda that includes several important political issues, notably the Arab stance on the NPT's renewal and the draft of the proposed regional treaty to keep the Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction. This agenda has been sent to each Arab country for review.

The Arab League envisages an Arab stance that works for developing the NPT into a total ban on nuclear proliferation and at the same time seeking full guarantees for nonnuclear countries, including their acquisition of advanced technologies for peaceful purposes.

The Arab stance stresses the need for Israel to join the NPT, place its nuclear installations under international inspection, and dismantle its nuclear arsenal. The Arab countries are seeking a commitment by nuclear countries not to use or threaten to use these weapons against other countries. The Arab view is that the Arab countries have the right to resort to options that will protect their interests if Israel refuses to sign the NPT.

'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general, has stated that President Husni Mubarak's position on the need to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons is an expression of the overall Arab stance.

Arab League Drafts Middle East Nuclear Treaty

JN1802182095 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 15 Feb 95 p 23

[All ellipses, numbering, lettering as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD has obtained the text of the draft treaty Egypt has prepared in cooperation with the Arab League to free the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction. The draft was prepared by an Arab committee set up for this purpose; it will also outline a comprehensive Arab visualization to regulate relations among Middle East countries in all nuclear fields. The following is the full text of the draft treaty:

Preamble

Determined to achieve genuine progress toward complete disarmament under the canopy of effective and strict supervision, including the banning and elimination of all types of mass-destruction weapons; eager to contribute to the realization of the intentions and objectives of the UN Charter; careful, for the sake of mankind, to completely rule out the possibility of the use or the threat to use mass-destruction weapons; believing that achievements in nuclear science, biology, and chemistry should be used only in the interest of mankind; convinced that a complete and effective ban on developing, producing, possessing, acquiring, stockpiling, transferring, and using mass-destruction weapons, not to mention the destruction of these weapons, are necessary steps to achieving these objectives; and wishing to free the Middle East region of mass- destruction weapons, the countries which are parties to the treaty have agreed to the following:

Article I: Definitions

For the purpose of this treaty, its protocols, and suplements:

1. The term "Middle East region" means the territories under the jurisdiction or control of the Arab League member countries, in addition to Iran and Israel.

2. The term "territory" means local waters, territorial waters, archipelago waters, the seabed and what lies below it, the land, airspace, and any place subject to the sovereignty of that state.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

3. The term "mass-destruction weapons" applies to nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons in accordance with the definition in the protocol pertaining to each of them.

4. The term "production facility or establishment" means any equipment and buildings housing this equipment which have been designed or built for the purpose of producing, developing, or testing mass-destruction weapons as explained in the appended supplements.

5. The term "objectives that the treaty does not ban" means:
a. Industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical objectives, or other peaceful objectives, as well as the objective of enforcing local law and combating riots, and military objectives that are not linked to the use of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons.
b. the objectives that are directly linked to prevention of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

6. The words "material, equipment, establishments, or facilities subject to safeguards" mean the material, equipment, establishments, or facilities that are permitted to be used in the activities which are not banned under this treaty on condition guarantees are given that they will not be used for nonpeaceful purposes by enabling the organization [not further identified] to carry out systematic inspection operations in accordance with what is acknowledged in the treaty and the appended supplements.

7. "Assistance" means coordinating with and providing member states with the means to protect themselves from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and which comprise, among others, the following:

Detection equipment and warning systems, protection equipment, radiation elimination equipment, radiation elimination elements, medical arrangements and treatment, and advice on any of these protection measures.

Article II: General Rules

1. The member states pledge to prohibit the following activities in territories within their jurisdiction or under their control:
a. Developing, producing, testing, using, storing, possessing, or proliferating weapons of mass destruction, whether directly or indirectly or on behalf of any other party.
b. Helping, encouraging, urging, or authorizing any other party to conduct activities prohibited under the treaty.

2. The member states also pledge the following:
a. Dismantling and destroying all weapons of mass destruction, which they possess or which are under their control.

b. Turning facilities and establishments, designed to produce, develop, or test weapons of mass destruction, into facilities and establishments for peaceful activities after destroying those parts that may lead to the production of such weapons.
c. Refraining from any military preparations to use weapons of mass destruction.

3. The member states pledge to restrict the use of materials, equipment, establishments, and facilities of nuclear, biological, and chemical activities, which are within their jurisdiction, which are under their control, or which they possess, to peaceful fields and activities.

Article III: Declarations

The member states shall supply the organization within (...) days after the treaty goes into effect with the following declarations:

a. A declaration on nuclear weapons and their production facilities in accordance with Protocol No. 1.

b. A declaration on biological weapons and their production facilities in accordance with Protocol No. 2.

c. A declaration on chemical weapons and their production facilities in accordance with Protocol No. 3.

d. A declaration containing information and data on materials that are subject to the treaty's guarantees, as well as the specifications of equipment, establishments, and facilities related to the application of the treaty in accordance with the concerned protocols.

Article IV: The Organization

1. Under this treaty, the member states shall establish an organization to achieve the goals of the treaty and implement its provisions, particularly those related to verifying compliance and providing a body through which the member states can hold consultations and cooperate.

2. All the member states shall be members of the organization.

3. The headquarters of the organization shall be in (...).

4. A general congress, an executive council, and a technical secretariat shall be set up for the organization, and the fields and functions of each of them shall be defined in accordance with the charter of the organization.

Article V: Verification

1. The member states pledge to cooperate with the organization to facilitate verification of materials, equipment, establishments, and facilities that are guaranteed by the treaty. They shall also take the necessary steps to enable the organization's inspectors to carry out their duties in accordance with this treaty.

2. The organization shall obtain the approval of the member states before choosing the inspectors. If the inspectors, chosen by the organization, are disapproved time and again and inspection is hampered, the issue

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

shall be referred to the executive council by the director general of the organization to take an appropriate measure in accordance with the charter of the organization.

3. Verification activities, described in this treaty and its protocols, shall be conducted with the least possible interference and shall achieve the objective of these activities on time. The organization shall demand only information and data that are necessary for its responsibilities in accordance with the treaty. The organization shall also take all measures to protect the confidentiality of information on civilian and military activities, facilities, and establishments during the implementation of the treaty.

4. When conducting the verification activities in accordance with this treaty, the organization shall take into account the technical developments in this field and shall do its best to reach the best situation in terms of effective verification and its costs by focusing on measures to verify the stages that include the production, the treatment, the use, or the storage of materials, which are subject to the treaty's guarantees and which can facilitate the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction. This process shall take place without creating difficulties for inspected member states or activities.

Article VI: Consultation, Cooperation, and Fact-Finding

1. The member states shall consult and cooperate with each other or through the organization about any issue that could be raised regarding the objectives of this treaty and the implementation of its provisions.

2. Any member state may ask the Executive Council for help in clarifying any case that could be considered vague or doubtful about the compliance of any other state with the treaty. The Executive Council shall submit the information in its possession that is relevant to the case to dispel any misgivings.

3. The member states shall do their best and seek, through consultations and exchange of information, to clarify and settle any vague issue that could raise doubts about compliance with the treaty. Any party that receives a request from another—to clarify an issue which the first party thinks of as doubtful or as raising concern—should submit detailed information to the other party within a period of (...days) to dispel those doubts. This should also be accompanied by an explanation of how the information submitted can be decoded. If the state that requested the explanation thinks that the explanation is not sufficient, then it may ask the Executive Council for further explanation from the state that was asked. If the doubts still persist or if the first party thinks that its doubts call for an urgent examination, then it may ask for an extraordinary session for the General Congress. At this extraordinary session, the General Congress shall examine the issue and it may recommend any appropriate measures to handle this case.

4. This treaty shall not prejudice the right of any two or more member states to agree on mutual arrangements to conduct inspections or to carry out any measures between them to explain or settle any question that may raise doubts about compliance with the treaty. These arrangements shall not affect the rights and obligations of any member state under the other provisions of this treaty.

Article VII: Measures Aimed at Rectifying a Given Situation and at Ensuring Compliance]

The General Congress shall take the necessary measures so as to ensure compliance with the treaty. The purpose of this is to rectify and remedy any situation that violates the provisions of the treaty. When considering taking measures under this paragraph, the General Congress shall take into consideration all information and recommendations related to the issues referred by the Executive Council. The General Congress, in a host of issues, may:

a. Restrict or freeze the rights and privileges of a member state under the treaty if this state does not take the necessary measures within a certain deadline to rectify a certain situation if it were asked to rectify this situation that violates the provisions of the treaty. This measure shall continue until this state adopts the necessary measures to meet its obligations under the treaty.

b. Recommend to the member states the adoption of collective measures in accordance with international law in the cases in which harm could be done to the purposes and objectives of the treaty as a result of action that are banned under the treaty.

c. If the state continues to violate its commitments, the General Congress may refer the issue, including the information and conclusions that are relevant to it, to the UN Security Council.

Article VIII: Settling Disputes

Disputes that may arise as a result of implementing or interpreting this treaty shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter on the peaceful settlement of disputes.

1. When a dispute emerges between two parties or more over the implementation or interpretation of this treaty, the concerned parties shall consult with each other to achieve a quick settlement to the dispute through negotiations or by any other means the parties may choose, including resorting to the competent agencies that are set up under the treaty or agreeing to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

2. The Executive Council can contribute to settling a conflict through any means it deems appropriate. This includes offering its good offices, calling on parties to the conflict to begin a settlement process of their choosing, and recommending a time limit for any procedures that are agreed upon.

3. The general congress will look into issues related to conflicts raised by member states, or conflicts that are referred to it by the Executive Council. Moreover, the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

general congress can, as necessary, establish or delegate commissions to take on duties related to settling these conflicts.

4. The general congress can refer to the UN Security Council in order to consult with the International Court of Justice regarding any legal issues that might arise within the scope of the organization's activities.

5. This article will not violate Article VII on provisions dealing with arrangements to rectify a certain situation or to guarantee compliance.

Article IX: The Amendments

Each member states can present amendments to this treaty. These draft amendments will submit to the following procedures:

1. The text of the proposed amendment will be presented to the director general of the technical secretariat to be distributed to all parties to the treaty. This proposed amendment will only be discussed at an amendment conference. Such a conference will be held if one-third of the member states notify the director general—no later than (...) days after the proposed amendment is distributed—that they support continuing discussion of the proposed amendment.

2. 'All' member states will not be able to present any amendments (...) days after two-thirds of the member states—including those referred to in the paragraph in Article XV—deposit the instruments of ratification.

Article X: The Duration of the Treaty and Withdrawal From It

1. This treaty has no specific duration.

2. In an exercise of its national sovereignty, each member state has the right to withdraw from the treaty if it decides that exceptional events related to the treaty are endangering its higher national interests. It must notify all the other member states (...) days before its withdrawal. The notification should contain a list of the exceptional events which the concerned member state considers a danger to its higher interests.

Article XI: The Treaty's Supplements

The treaty and its supplements are considered an indivisible whole. Any reference to the treaty means the treaty and its following supplements:

a. The first protocol on nuclear materials, establishments, and facilities.

b. The second protocol on biological materials, establishments, and facilities.

c. The third protocol on chemical materials, establishments, and facilities.

d. The special supplement dealing with security guarantees offered by the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council.

e. The second supplement dealing with the obligations of the countries neighboring the Middle East region.

Article XII: Signing and Ratifying Treaty

1. The door for signing the treaty shall be open for all concerned countries before it becomes effective on (...).

2. The door for signing the two annexes of the treaty shall be open for all concerned parties on (...).

3. This treaty and its three protocols and the organization's charter are subject to the ratification of the signatory states, each according to their constitutional procedures.

4. Any country that does not sign the treaty before it becomes effective can join it at any time.

Article XIII: Reservations

No reservations can be made on any of the rules of this treaty.

Article XIV: Depository and languages of the original text of the treaty

The treaty, whose English, French, Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian texts are equal, shall be deposited with the UN secretary general who will be the depository of this treaty, and will do the following:

1. He shall quickly notify all members states of the dates of signing and depositing documents of the treaty or joining the agreement. He shall notify members of the date on which the treaty becomes effective and shall receive notifications from the others and convey them to the parties immediately after receiving them.

2. This treaty shall be registered in accordance with Article 103 of the UN Charter.

Article XV: When the Agreement Becomes Effective

1. The agreement becomes effective (...) days after depositing the following:
a. The instruments of ratification of Jordan, Israel, Iran, Algeria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt.
b. The instruments of ratification on the first annex related to the security guarantees by the five permanent Security Council member states.

2. As for the countries which deposit the instruments of ratification or admission after the treaty became effective, the treaty shall become effective one day after date of depositing the instruments of ratification or admission.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 15 Feb

NC2202184395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 15 February edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Scholars Urge Break in Relations With Russia
2. U.S. Puts Pressure on Pakistan To Freeze Nuclear Program
3. Book on Jews' Role in Killing Third Caliph Withdrawn
4. Pakistan's Extradition of Suspect to U.S. Criticized

MUSLIM SCHOLARS URGE BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

A 300-word report by Mustafa Khalifah on page 1 says a number of Islamic scholars have called for the severance of diplomatic relations with Russia because of its "war of genocide" against the Muslims in Chechnya. They also called for providing the Chechen people with "financial support." Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, a College of Science professor, says "Russia, the United States, and some European countries have agreed to crush the Chechens, for no reason other than the fact that they are Muslims." Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, secretary general of the Islamic World League, said he recently met with the foreign minister of Chechnya, who "bitterly complained about the Islamic world's indifference toward Chechnya's just cause." Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Marzuq, secretary general of the Higher Islamic Affairs Council, says "following the collapse of communism, the Western nations started to regard Islam as their enemy and declared war on it because they fully realize that Islam stands against their desire to dominate the world and control the destiny of poor nations."

U.S. PUTS PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN TO FREEZE NUCLEAR PROGRAM

A 500-word report by Rajab al-Damanhuri on page 1 quotes Professor Khurshid Ahmad, a member of the Pakistani Senate, as saying that the United States insists that Pakistan "freeze" its nuclear program. Ahmad adds that the United States has put pressure on the Pakistani Government to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. However, he is confident that Pakistan will not "cancel or downsize" its nuclear program. Noting that Pakistan has strong military industries and advanced training programs, he welcomes military cooperation between Pakistan and the Arab countries in arms manufacturing and other fields. He maintains that India poses a danger in the field of nuclear and chemical weapons, not only for Pakistan, but also for Arab and Islamic countries, especially following the "clear collusion between India and Israel," which have been exchanging visits by scientists and military officials.

BOOK ON JEWS' ROLE IN KILLING THIRD CALIPH WITHDRAWN

A 250-word report on page 1 says the Egyptian Education Ministry has "acquitted" the Jew 'Abdallah Ibn-Saba' and his group of killing Third Caliph 'Uthman Ibn-'Affan, and ignored their role in sowing sedition between Muslims during Bin-'Affans era. The report adds that the Education Minister has canceled a history book for the second preparatory class and replaced it with a new book entitled "Geography and History of the Arab Homeland in the Islamic Age." The new book devotes only one page to Uthman Ibn-'Affan's era in a very distorted way. The report says Islamic history professor Dr. Jamal 'Abd-al-Hadi has undertaken a new scientific study in which he highlights the role of Ibn-Saba' in killing 'Uthman Ibn-'Affan. The professor says that the education minister has deleted the role of the Jews in killing 'Uthman Ibn-'Affan "in implementation of the peace treaty" between Egypt and Israel which forbids the publication of derogatory references to Jews.

PAKISTAN'S EXTRADITION OF SUSPECT TO U.S. CRITICIZED

A 300-word report on page 2 says the Pakistani Government of Benazir Bhutto is facing a "strong storm of criticism" for handing over "Iraqi citizen" Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf to the U.S. authorities, who accuse him of being behind the explosions that occurred in New York in 1993. Ja'far Ahmad, deputy leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, described the Pakistani Government behavior as tantamount to "slavery," indicating that Yusuf should have been referred first to a Pakistani court to answer the charges against him before he could be handed over to the United States. Ja'far said Pakistan's extradition of Yusuh is an issue that arouses "concern" for all the Islamic forces. He asked whether the United States will reciprocate if the Pakistani authorities ask it to hand over any suspect. Ja'far asked whether the United States will hand over to Pakistan singers Michael Jackson and Madonna to try them for sowing corruption on earth. He also called for the extradition of writers Salman Rushdie and Taslimah Nasrin to try them on charges of blasphemy and apostasy. The report says the Pakistani Government will claim part of the $2 million reward which the U.S. Government has earmarked for anyone who gives information leading to Yusuf's arrest. Pakistani Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar is quoted as saying that "his country will use part of the reward which it will get for the reconstruction of Aghanistan. The remainder will go to the person who informed the Pakistani authorities on Yusuf's whereabouts."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Relations With Israel, Opposition

JN2202193195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Feb 95 p 6

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by chief editor Jihad al-Khazin in Paris on 20 February]

[FBIS Translated Text][al-Khazin] Why have you called for a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee in Cairo?

['Arafat] The meeting was called for at the recommendation of the Council of Ministers of the (Palestinian) National Authority [NA] against the backdrop of recent developments, including the talks held between me and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Mr. Rabin. No progress was made in these talks. In the aftermath of the Cairo summit, the Taba meeting, and the Washington meeting presided over by President Bill Clinton, we noticed an unwillingness on the part of Israel to implement the provisions enshrined in the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement. This prompted a reconsideration of the issues we are facing. A decision was made in this regard by the Council of Ministers, which called the PLO Executive Committee members into an urgent meeting to be held in Cairo on Tuesday (today).

[Al-Khazin] What are the bones of contention you have with Rabin and Peres? And what about the agenda of the meeting to be held on Tuesday?

['Arafat] The agenda includes topics regarding the overall peace process. With regard to the bones of contention you have asked about, I would like to say that in accordance with the agreements signed in Washington and Cairo, the Israeli withdrawal from populated areas in the rest of the West Bank was supposed to have taken place not later than July 1994. The elections were also supposed to have been held before that date. The same goes for our assumption of all functions. At present, the Israeli leadership is procrastinating over this issue on the pretext that deadlines are not sacred, as stated by several Israeli ministers. When we urged the cosponsors of the conference to intervene, they argued that the NA has failed to collect the taxes required to cover the expenditure needed when the Israeli troops are withdrawn. This prompted us to convene an urgent meeting of the donor nations in Brussels in October 1994. Pledges were made to cover the expenses required for the following six months. Nonetheless, Israel has failed to implement the provisions of the agreement, except for what was previously agreed upon; namely, the transfer of powers in the following five functions: Education, health, tourism and social affairs, taxation, culture and information. It is regrettable that the Israeli argument worsened in the aftermath of the violent incidents that took place in Bet Lid and Tel Aviv. For the Israelis raised the issue of security, to the exclusion of all others. By so doing, they have forgotten that we proceeded with the negotiations and signed the Cairo agreement in the wake of the Hebron massacre, which martyred 52 persons and wounded 250 others. The security pretext is an excuse used by the Israeli leadership.

To be fair, I am well aware of the Israelis' sensitivity to security. I appreciate this sensitivity. We have taken significant measures to avert such attacks, because we believe that there is an agreement between the Palestinian leadership represented by the PLO and the Israeli Government, and that everybody must respect this agreement.

[Al-Khazin] Based on this, do you believe that the operations carried out by Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and [Islamic] Jihad in the territories still under occupation are acts of legitimate jihad?

['Arafat] What I would like to say is that we all must respect the agreements concluded in the times of war and peace. I wonder why Hamas does not carry out its operations from Syria and Jordan? I wonder why Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Syria-based and Jordan-based factions do not carry out their operations from Syria and Jordan, particularly since there are borders between Syria and Israel and between Jordan and Israel. Why are they making us look as if we are to be held responsible for this? Is it because we are the most vulnerable party? These factions have been showing due respect for the Jordanian position and the Syrian position. Likewise, they must show respect for the Palestinian position and Palestinian-Israeli agreements. This should be one of these factions' major concerns. Otherwise, they would weaken our own, rather than the Israeli position. Neither one, nor two or even ten operations, for that matter, could weaken the Israeli position. The position that is weakened by such operations is the Palestinian position. We must either make peace altogether or fight altogether. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people everywhere. Besides, I have the right to ask the following questions: Where were these factions when the PLO was fighting? Why did they fail to act then? Yosi Beilin [Israeli deputy foreign minister] admitted that there was peace between these factions and the Israelis when we were engaged in fighting. This is an admission made by Beilin, who acknowledged that this reflected an Israeli mistake.

Regardless of all this, I would like to say that we all have to take a unified Palestinian stance: We have to make peace altogether or fight altogether, and to proceed altogether toward the establishment of a Palestinian state. Any departure from this course is bound to nip the Palestinian dream in the bud, and to kill the newborn Palestinian entity. For the first time since the beginning of this century, there is a Palestinian National Authority that is controlling Palestinian territories and a Palestinian people.

[Al-Khazin] Have you ever thought about making them join the NA in order to contain them?

['Arafat] Yes. This has been proposed to them, and still is. Anyone who wishes to join is welcome.

[Al-Khazin] To join the NA?

['Arafat] In the recent PLO Central Council meeting, this offer was made to them. Also, in the latest Palestine National Council [PNC] session, according to which we went to Madrid, the same offer was made to everyone. Some supported us going to Madrid, others opposed. In the end, I went to the Madrid Conference with a decision from the PNC.

[Al-Khazin] Are there any contacts with Hamas and the [Islamic] Jihad Movement to make such an offer again?

['Arafat] Yes, we did not stop dialogue with any of them.

[Al-Khazin] What was the answer?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

['Arafat] It ranges between a yes by some leaders to a prohibition by others. So far, they have not agreed on anything. As for the Jihad Movement, some of them are with us inside the authority—the wing known as al-Aqsa Battalions led by Fayiz al- Aswad—while others, such as (Fathi) al-Shaqaqi, who has well- known connections to Iran, oppose that. Some people demand 40 percent of the PNC seats. They probably know nothing about the structure of the PNC. Regrettably, organizations such as Hamas do not know anything about the structure of the PNC. One third [as published] of the PNC is made up of all the Palestinian factions; one quarter is made up of the elected popular organizations—the workers, the women, the lawyers, the engineers, the doctors, the agricultural scientists, the artists, and other unions; one quarter, as is well known, is made up of our communities in Latin America, North America, Europe, and the Arab states; and one quarter of the Palestinian figures. This is the structure of the PNC.

[Al-Khazin] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] In your meetings with Rabin and Peres, did you make it clear to them that you, as head of the Palestinian Authority, are not working for them as a policeman against Hamas? They hold you responsible all the time.

['Arafat] So what if they hold me responsible? I say this to the press: They hold me responsible because of my position as the official who signed an agreement with them; the person responsible for all the Palestinian people.

[Al-Khazin] But they want you to be their policeman?

['Arafat] No. They are dealing with me according to that position, just as they were asking me in Lebanon about any bullet fired across the borders at the time of the agreement they had with me. There were Lebanese and Palestinian factions in southern Lebanon when we signed the 1981 Agreement through Philip Habib. I now ask them about the [Hebron] Ibrahimi Mosque. Who shall I ask? Shall I ask Kakh or Kahana? I ask the Israeli Government about the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre was directed against the Israeli Government and it did not mention Kakh, but mentioned the fanatic elements in general.

[Al-Khazin] Can you meet the demands of the Israelis and Americans to stop terrorism?

['Arafat] No, I cannot stop that. But, as I say this, I have to respect the agreement as much as I can. This is what I am doing now, and no one can blame me. When Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, signed the al-Hudaybah accord, he returned certain Muslims [who fled Mecca to join the Muslims in Medina] because an accord is an accord. You know that when I was in Lebanon after the 1981 agreement, I did not allow any Lebanese or Palestinian faction to fire a single bullet across the borders. What did I do to Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front] and his faction when they opened fire at UN troops after 1981? I apprehended them all.

[Al-Khazin] What you are saying may give the impression that their demands on you are fair.

['Arafat] They have the right to raise demands and I have the right to demand that they be committed to the agreement as much as I am committed to it. I also have the right to demand complete withdrawal and the handing over of the remaining powers so that we can hold the elections. The solution is not a security one. Rather, it is political one that can be achieved through the accurate and faithful implementation of the agreement.

[Al-Khazin] In light of what you have said, is the Israeli security demand an almost impossible demand, since they are trying to obstruct the agreement?

['Arafat] I explicitly said that there are three pretexts. First, they say there are no sacred dates. Second, they say there is a lack of funds. Third, they took advantage of the [anti-Israeli] operations to delay the withdrawal and elections. Delaying the handing over of powers for eight months freezes and even explodes the situation. This is because if the situation is frozen, it will not only have repercussions in the Palestinian arena, but also at the Arab, Islamic, nonaligned, and international levels. The Palestine question is the core of the conflict in the Middle East. It affects everything—normalization, the economy, the media, relations, etc.

[Al-Khazin] In light of what has happened since September 1993, do you feel that, had it been up to you, you would have amended some articles of the agreement with Israel?

['Arafat] We should know that in any negotiations, you cannot get everything. Likewise, the other party cannot get everything from you. In addition, many other factors affect the negotiations, such as the Arab and international situation, the balances of power, and the situation on the ground. For example, after the 1973 war, they did not recognize the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinians, although we were the third partner to the declaration of war. If you remember, there was an Egyptian-Syrian-Palestinian command under the command of [former Egyptian Defense Minister] Field Marshal Ahmad Isma'il. Afterward, other Arab states joined us. Nevertheless, they did not recognize the PLO. The most that we could attain, although not perfectly, was the joint Syrian-Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which was supposed to go to Geneva. If you remember, despite the agreement between [former Egyptian Foreign Minister] Isma'il Fahmi and then U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that there be a joint Arab delegation including a low-level PLO representation, that did not materialize. That was after a war won by the Arabs and us. However, we could not attain more than that. But in this agreement between the PLO, the sole,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the Government of Israel, we attained for the first time a position for the Palestinian people on the political and geographic map of the Middle East, regardless of what has happened after that.

[Al-Khazin] Can Israel implement the article concerning withdrawal or redeployment as long as Rabin is thinking of the Israeli elections?

['Arafat] He has his circumstances and I have mine. However, there is an agreement which binds both of us. It is not just a bilateral agreement, but an agreement which has been signed by the cosponsors of the peace conference in Washington under the sponsorship of U.S. President Bill Clinton and in Cairo under the sponsorship of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. It was also signed by the foreign ministers of Russia (Andre Kozyrev) and the United States (Warren Christopher). The documents of the agreement have become official documents of the United Nations. However, undoubtedly, we must take into consideration that there is an attempt to involve the (Israeli) election factor at this time, although the election battle is long way away. There is also an attempt to give the United States and other states the impression that the Labor Party has weakened, although the latest opinion poll gives 41 percent to Rabin and 24 percent to (Likud leader Binyamin) Netanyahu. Moreover, this agreement is binding on any Israeli government. It is also binding on any PLO Executive Committee and any Palestinian National Authority.

[Al-Khazin] Do you expect anything from the Americans?

['Arafat] I received a very important message from President Clinton last Friday on this issue. The message restates their stand and their commitment to the peace process and to maintaining it.

[Al-Khazin] Did they offer to help the National Authority financially?

['Arafat] Yes, that was mentioned in the message.

[Al-Khazin] What have the Americans offered thus far?

['Arafat] Let me tell you that they pledged to offer $125 million this year. Of this amount, they have thus far granted us $25 million to launch projects in the territories. This will be followed by involvement in investment projects to be launched with the help of the U.S. agency for international aid.

With regard to the Arab aid we have received, I would like to say that Saudi Arabia is the only Arab country to have fulfilled its commitments in full. Saudi Arabia has pledged to grant us an additional $100 million. We have been officially informed that the last $30 million installment of this amount has been deposited with the Islamic Bank for the purpose of launching projects in Jerusalem. Yesterday, Prince Salman [governor of Riyadh] called for making donations for Jerusalem. I am proud of the stand taken by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz toward the Palestinian people, the Palestine question, the Palestinian track of negotiations, and the Jerusalem issue in particular. We are proud of the ties binding us to King Fahd and the Saudi family. Likewise, we will not forget the special Egyptian role in this regard, and the support my brother President Mubarak has extended to the Palestinian position on all levels.

[Al-Khazin] Now that the negotiations have suffered a setback due to terrorism, are Palestinian interests served by the immediate start of final status negotiations? Will Israel welcome such a development?

['Arafat] Of course, they [the Israelis] have submitted a proposal to this effect. I am not opposed to it. Nonetheless, I am afraid that this could be an attempt to open a new Pandora's box with all the possibilities entailed. What is required at present is a speedy withdrawal, the holding of elections, and the assumption of powers, particularly since the arrangements to be enforced during the remainder of the transitional period could erode. We might enter a maze. What has been achieved during the transitional period could end up becoming the permanent status. If we have differences with the Israelis in the future, then they could threaten to freeze everything, the final status negotiations and the interim period negotiations. Rabin has proposed to me that I hold the elections while the Israeli Army withdraws to its barracks during the days on which the elections are held. However, I answered him, wondering: Who of those who would win the elections could ask the Israelis to come again to the territories to occupy them? Is this plausible?

[Al-Khazin] Where do you stand now with regard to your ties with Jordan, particularly after the agreements you have signed with Jordan during your recent visit to Jordan?

['Arafat] As a matter of fact, very important issues were addressed during the visit. You are well aware that we are still connected with Egypt, which was responsible for the Gaza Strip, and with Jordan, which was responsible for the West Bank, in terms of the laws enforced, education, geographic proximity, trade, transit, post, and communications. We do have intermingled relations with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. Our pan-Arab perspective prompts us to demand the closest possible ties with the brothers in Egypt and Jordan so that we may not remain hostage to the Israeli relationship. I can safely say that my recent visit to Jordan was part of efforts in this direction. We have signed several significant agreements.

[Al-Khazin] Abu-'Ammar seems to be experiencing a crisis caused by a plethora of leaders?

['Arafat] I have many leaders, the most important of which are the Palestinian people. We have launched the most protracted struggle in the modern age, and the most

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

protracted intifadah in history. Our stone-throwers confronted the most powerful army in the region. I am enriched by my Arab and Islamic depth. Moreover, we have friends within the Nonaligned Movement and the international community of nations. The Palestine question will remain embedded within the hearts and minds of the Arabs and Muslims and all free and honorable people everywhere.

[Al-Khazin] However, I would like to pose the following question to you: In case Israel does not fulfill its obligations, can you wriggle out of your commitments?

['Arafat] We as a leadership and people are absolutely committed to the peace of the brave, not the peace that is associated with submission. Nonetheless, this commitment remains within the confines of the national parameters cherished by the Palestinian people and our Arab nation, particularly with regard to holy Jerusalem. The Arab-Israeli peace and the Palestinian-Israeli peace are inseparable.

[Al-Khazin] What is the status of Jerusalem in the negotiations on the final phase? The difference, which was an Arab-Israeli, has become an Arab-Arab one?

['Arafat] No. The Islamic conference has decided the issue of Jerusalem in part and parcel. Resolution 242 applies to holy Jerusalem which was occupied in 1967. The Madrid conference convened on the basis of this resolution; the Oslo accord was concluded on the basis of this resolution; and what we signed in Washington and Cairo was reached in accordance with this resolution. Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine whether they like it or not. The Islamic conference decided this issue very clearly. Jordan asserted in the Jerusalem committee meeting, through its Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, its commitment to this stand, which was decided at the Casablanca Islamic summit.

Some issues are adjourned for the final stage. I will say it in English: To begin as soon as possible no more than the beginning of the third year. This means that negotiations on Jerusalem, settlements, borders, and the old refugees [of 1948] can begin today or tomorrow. The issue of the displaced will be discussed during the transitional period.

Regarding Jordan's sovereignty over the Islamic holy places, this issue was decided in two conferences—the Islamic summit in Casablanca and the recent Jerusalem committee meeting in Ifrane.

There is an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis to safeguard all Palestinian Arab institutions in Jerusalem, as well as the Christian and Islamic holy places. I insisted on putting Christian before Islamic in respect of the 'Umarite Covenant.

[Al-Khazin] Is it correct that you will return to Tunis?

['Arafat] I have only one return; that is, to the homeland. I returned to the homeland and I will die on the soil of my homeland. Jerusalem is my homeland.

[Al-Khazin] Is there a civil war among the Palestinians in Gaza?

['Arafat] Of course not. I would like to say something. The recent operation which took place on Friday was planned and we have evidence.

[Al-Khazin] What about the relationship with Iran?

['Arafat] I do not want to speak about the relationship with Iran.

[Al-Khazin] What is the level of the relations with Syria now? Is there coordination?

['Arafat] Regrettably, there is no coordination with Syria. We are doing our utmost to maintain relations with all our Arab brothers, including Syria, which has been our partner in the peace process since the Madrid conference.

In fact, I do not want to interfere with the Syrian stand, so the Israelis cannot exploit any gap between with the Syrians, or with any Arab country, for their own benefit. However, I support a just and comprehensive solution on all fronts, the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks. Also, I support the Syrian negotiating stand, in particular.

[Al-Khazin] If the Lebanese track was separated from the Syrian track, do you think that things on the Lebanese track would be easy, as it is now shouldering the burden of the Syrian track?

['Arafat] There is an Israeli proposal in this regard. Also, there is American thinking to this effect. However, the Syrian- Lebanese relationship prevents such separation.

[Al-Khazin] Does this mean if both tracks were separated it would be easier to reach an agreement on the Lebanese track?

['Arafat] This means that the Syrian-Lebanese relationship is so deep that both tracks cannot be separated.

PLO Executive Committee To Reconsider Peace Process

MM2202120095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Uqbah 'Ali al-Salih in Paris, 'Ali al-Salih in London, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus in Tunis and Amman: "In Reply to a Question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 'Arafat says That the Executive Committee Will Discuss the Entire Peace Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The attention of the seminar held in Paris under the title "The Mediterranean: What Future After Peace?" has shifted to peace problems with the announcement that the PLO Executive Committee will meet in Cairo. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has denied that the meeting was called by other parties. In reply to a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said: "The decision was made by the Palestinian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Authority [PA] and approved by the cabinet on Friday before I came here." 'Arafat said that the choice of Cairo as the venue for the meeting had no political significance and that the reason was Cairo's proximity to Gaza.

Talking to reporters after his meeting with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, 'Arafat said: "In Cairo we will discuss the whole situation. The Executive Committee is the source of the PA's jurisdiction. If it becomes necessary to hold meetings of other bodies, such as the Central Council, then we will do so." He added: "We will discuss reassessment of the entire situation."

Juppe said: "France wants continuation of the peace process and the set agenda." The French minister added that he had told the Israelis that "a decision is necessary regarding the elections and the Israeli Army's withdrawal." He also said: "We reminded them of the adverse effects of sealing off the occupied territories."

Meanwhile a responsible source at the French Foreign Ministry who wished to remain anonymous said that "France has not changed its position on any issue pertaining to the region." Answering a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the position announced by French Defense Minister Francois Leotard on the question of eliminating mass destruction weapons from the Middle East and what Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said about Jerusalem in his speech at the UNESCO meeting, the French source just said: "France's positions are known and have not changed. I do not wish to comment on personal views."

Palestinian Ambassador in London 'Afif Safiyah has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We must reconsider the peace process in order to save peace itself." He added that "the Israelis do not want to play the both-sides-win game. They only want to play the winner-and-loser game." The Palestinian diplomat continued: "There is a need for foreign parties to intercede, especially Europe, which is looking for a role to play. There is a free role in the Middle East waiting for someone to play it."

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Safiyah added: "Reconsideration of the peace process means reconsideration of Palestinian-Arab relations." "We have been rebuilding our Arab relations for months and have made some significant progress in that, and we will continue the process." In conclusion, he said: "We are seeking a joint Arab formula."

Sources close to PLO Executive Committee Members Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) and Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) stressed that they have decided not to attend the committee meeting. In confirmation of this the sources said that Abu-Mazin yesterday began a visit to the Jordanian capital, shortly before 'Arafat was due in Tunis in a final attempt to persuade them to attend.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that 'Arafat had tried to persuade Abu-mazin to postpone his departure for Jordan but the latter had refused on the grounds that it was a scheduled visit. A senior Fatah official, however, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that if Abu-Mazin had any intention of attending the meeting he would have canceled that visit or postponed it for some hours. But Abu-Mazin, the source said, had decided not to attend the meeting because 'Arafat did not abide by a decision made by the Fatah Central Committee that the meetings would be held in Tunis and nowhere else.

The sources said that Abu-Mazin and Abu-al-Lutf had conveyed their decision to 'Arafat in a telephone conversation that he held with them the night before last from Paris, where he was attending the seminar sponsored by UNESCO on the future of peace in the Middle East.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, 'Arafat's spokesman, said that he expected Abu-Mazin and Abu-al-Lutf to attend the meeting which, he said, would assess the peace negotiations now at a critical juncture. He added: "The meeting will also put the committee members in the picture after the recent developments such as the Cairo, Washington, Paris, and Erez meetings."

A senior Fatah official has stated that "it can be said that 'Arafat called the meeting for three reasons. The first was to wave the stick in the face of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, that is, threaten to return to the previous era. The second was that some matters required some decisions, such as acceptance of the 'Janin second' idea suggested by Rabin, to protect the backs of those behind the acceptance. The third and most likely reason was to raise some political clamor about the crisis facing the peace process."

The sources say that if Abu-Mazin and Abu-al-Lutf did boycott the meeting, there would be a quorum problem, particularly as six of the committee members had either resigned or suspended their membership for reasons ranging from disageement with 'Arafat's autocratic style of leadership to rejection of the Oslo agreement. They are Taysir Khalid (Popular Front), 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh (Popular Front), Mahmud Isma'il (Arab Liberation Front), 'Abdallah Hurani (independent), Mahmud Darwish (independent), and Shafiq al-Hut (independent).

Sulayman al-Najjab (the People's party) is unlikely to attend the meeting, according to a statement made to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by a senior party official, because of the speed with which 'Arafat called the meeting. According to the same official, al-Najjab had not received an invitation to attend by yesterday afternoon.

Sources close to President 'Arafat have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that " 'Arafat was furious because of the statement issued by al-Surani saying that the meeting would be held after 'Id al-Fitr." They said that "as soon as he heard about al-Surani's statement, 'Arafat immediately decided to hold the meeting today."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

PLO Executive Body Official on Interim Arrangement

TA2202153295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that in their negotiations, Israel and the PLO should skip the interim stage and begin discussing the permanent solution.

He told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that his offer could solve complicated problems and implement the political separation Israel is seeking. Our correspondent notes that this is the first time a senior PLO official has publicly suggested advancing the negotiations on the permanent arrangement.

PLO Official in London Views Peace Process Stalemate

BR2202134495 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES in French 21 Feb 95 p 4

[Interview with 'Afif Safiyah, PLO representative in London, by Karim Ellyas; place and date not given: "We Must Reconsider the Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ellyas] You seem particularly pessimistic regarding Israeli willingness to make headway in the peace process.

[Safiyah] In order to save peace we must reconsider the peace process launched 18 months ago. Yitzhaq Rabin fully rewrote the Oslo texts in the field. One specific thing contained in this agreement which was imperfect from the start was the agenda. We have now unnecessarily accumulated a nine-month delay regarding the elections and redeployment of the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank. Contrary to the commitment undertaken not to create any new settlements, we are now witnessing an intensification of settlement building and the illegal confiscation of land. Since the 'Arafat- Rabin handshake in Washington back in September 1993, the number of settlements on the West Bank has increased by 10 percent.

[Ellyas] But what do you mean by "reconsidering the peace process?"

[Safiyah] The legitimacy of this process lies in its dynamism. Today we are in a suspended, static phase the outcome of which depends on the partial Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. We wanted to seek a "no losers" solution with Israel, in other words see the creation of two states. I would say that we have been unreasonably reasonable. If Israel persists in seeking to play the "winner takes all" game, then it should come as no surprise to them that a minority among our ranks is tempted to opt for the "no winners" formula. Mr. Rabin misunderstood our realism. The realism in question is noble and I call for it once again. Resignation is contemptible and I dissociate myself from it.

[Ellyas] What does the PLO expect from the international community?

[Safiyah] The United States has locked itself away behind a facade of deliberate powerlessness which led to its alignment in favor of Israeli preferences. Europe is our big hope for peace. It is an actor which is seeking its role in the international arena while there is already a major role for it in the Middle East.

[Ellyas] Regarding financial aid, you are blaming bureaucracy and the West is pointing the finger at the disorganization of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza...

[Safiyah] All that I can say is that there is some truth in both assertions.

Official Says Israel To Propose Annex of Negev Lands

TA2102160495 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, QUDS PRESS—A senior Palestinian official has disclosed that Israel recently submitted to the Palestinian side a proposal that provides for expanding the Gaza Strip area from the south by annexing Negev Desert lands located within the Green Line in exchange for confiscated Arab lands in the West Bank.

The official, who wished to remain anonymous, said in press statements here that the Palestinian leadership has received information that the government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin intends to move the Green Line 5-10 km inside the West Bank. This operation will ensure that 70 percent of the West Bank settlers will be linked to Israel within the framework of a final settlement. [passage omitted]

According to the Israeli proposal, the new line will include the strip from 'Ara village, north of the Green Line, to the town of Latrun near Ramallah, extending in the northern part to the Jordan Valley, parallel to Baysan, while excluding limited parts of the towns of Qalqilyah and Tulkarm because of the population density of their Palestinian residents. In return for the confiscated land in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip will be expanded from the south by annexing land from the Negev.

The plan also calls for moving the Green Line, annexing East Jerusalem, and maintaining a strategic Israeli presence along the hills above the Jordan River (the Alon line).

The Palestinian official added that the Israeli Government has approved a secret document on expanding the boundaries of Jerusalem to include the settlements of Gush 'Etzyon and Ma'ale Adumim on the Jericho road in the south, the settlement of Giv'at Ze'ev and the boundaries of the town of Ramallah in the north ,and the settlements of Efrata and Betar, near Bethlehem, in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

east. In addition, the plan calls for intensifying settlement activity around Jerusalem by adding approximately 8,000 new housing units. [passage omitted]

Official on Arab Refusal To Recognize Passport

JN2102200695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Sa'id al-Tamimi, under secretary at the Interior Ministry, has said that he has heard of the reports that Arab countries refuse to recognize the Palestinian passport. He added: I do not know the source of this information, which was published in one of the local newspapers yesterday. Al-Tamimi said: European countries, Israel, and the United States have recognized the Palestinian passport. So, naturally the Arab countries should recognize Palestinian passport holders and facilitate their affairs. He said that he has not felt anything that shows that there is opposition to the Palestinian passports, adding that a memorandum was presented to the Arab Interior Ministers Council to inform the ministers that a Palestinian passport will be issued and that it will be presented to the Arab League for the appropriate decision to be made.

'Terror' Squad Uncovered in Gaza; Nabulus Houses Reopened

TA2202084295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khalid al-Qidrah, the public prosecutor in the Gaza Strip, announced that Palestinian security services have uncovered an Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] squad in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that one of the members of the six-member squad is suspected of planning to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will reopen about 20 houses sealed in the Nabulus area because of security offenses by the owners. Our correspondent reports that the Nabulus governor announced the decision to the Nabulus Chamber of Commerce last night.

Abu-Nidal Men Reportedly Held for Interrogation

JN2202133495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prosecutor General Khalid al-Qidrah has stated that the Palestinian security services are interrogating six persons belonging to the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] organization accused of disturbing national security. Al-Qidrah said the National Authority has evidence proving the defendants' links with a plan to carry out operations detrimental to national Palestinian security. He added that disclosing the names of the defendants at present is not in the interest of the ongoing investigations.

Shaykh Yasin Says Coexistence With PA Possible

TA2102173095 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Feb 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Amin Abu-Wardah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabulus, QUDS PRESS—In an exclusive interview with QUDS PRESS, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin said that coexistence between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA] will be possible if the PA does not take hostile steps against the Islamic Movement and if it does not allow the establishment of a dictatorial authority, such as a one- party system.

Yasin, who is considered the spiritual leader of his movement, which leads the Palestinian opposition factions, and who is being held by the Israelis in Kefar Yona prison, added that it will not be possible to coexist with the PA if it opens fire on the Islamic forces, which built the bridges for the PA's entry into Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank.

Shaykh Yasin downplayed the measures the U.S. Administration adopted against Hamas and other organizations, including banning fund-raising activities. He said these measures cannot impact on Hamas' sources of funding, because the movement depends on Islamic funds from all over the globe.

He stressed that the movement is not subject to the wishes of this or that president or country because it is not dependent on countries. He added, however, that international pressure might make it difficult to transfer money to the movement from abroad.

Shaykh Yasin said that Israeli measures, in any event, cannot paralyze the movement.

Yasin affirmed that Hamas will not participate in the self-rule elections. He said self-rule is seen as the implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, which the Islamic Movement has rejected; therefore, we will reject any elections in the occupied areas that are designed to find proxies to administer those areas for Israel and to implement those agreements.

On charges that Hamas has a secret plan for joining the PA, Yasin said those who are betting on this do not know the meaning of the Hamas creed, which it is committed to implement and which it invites the people to adopt. Once those individuals understand Islam, they will change their stance, because our position on self-rule is firm and unshakable.

DFLP Denies Reported Plans To Move to Moscow

JN2202170795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Feb 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has denied anew that the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

DFLP's leadership is considering a move to Moscow or that it its holding contacts in that respect with the Russian authorities.

AL-HAYAH's London offices received a clarification from the DFLP which says: AL-HAYAH—page five, the 11 February issue—published a report under the headline "Hawatimah to Moscow." The DFLP Central Information Department wishes to stress that this report is absolutely unfounded and surprising. The DFLP leadership has never at any time—even when the Moscow was a safe city and when Palestinian-Soviet ties were ties of support and solidarity—considered moving to Moscow or any non-Arab capital. Nor has it ever considered distancing itself from the area of the conflict and confrontation with the Israeli occupation. It is now spread, basically, in the occupied territories, where large numbers of that leadership reside, and Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, which have large Palestinian communities.

New Body Opposed to Oslo Accord Founded in West Bank

TA2102161095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A new Palestinian body has been established in Judaea and Samaria. This body, named the Palestinian Union, is made up of the political forces opposed to the Oslo accord, including representatives of Islamic groupings, and former Nabulus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah is its secretary. The group's platform refers to Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinians, stipulates support for the right of all Palestinians to return to their homeland, and calls for the uprooting of all settlements.

Grouping Calls On 'Arafat To 'Admit Failure,' Resign

JN2302064395 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The following is a statement issued by the Palestinian Grouping [al-Tajammu' al-Filastini] on the call for convening the PLO Executive Committee in Cairo.

The statement says: The Oslo agreement was nothing but a bottleneck into which the Palestine question was pushed to beleaguer the Palestinian people and bring them to their knees. The agreement was nothing but a logical result of the policy of relinquishment adopted by the leadership dominating the PLO. Results that have surfaced now clearly emphasize that the agreement was simply intended to serve the Zionist interests at the expense of the inalienable Palestinian rights.

The Oslo agreement was the result of the policy of single-handedness and disregard for the PLO's representative bodies. Before and after the Madrid conference, the [PLO's] domineering leadership decisions deviated from the Palestinian National Charter in a way that contradicted the decisions of national councils and other representative bodies. It has become clear that even if we presume that the single-handed policy is adopted in good faith, it cannot but lead to dire and gloomy consequences. The Oslo agreement was signed even without the closest individuals to the domineering leadership.

The Palestinian Grouping goes on saying in its statement: Therefore, the attempt to convene the Executive Committee or what remained of it, by its chairman's aides in Cairo, is merely an attempt to conceal the dilemma into which we were dragged by the agreement, to shirk responsibility, and mislead the masses. Logic stipulates that Yasir 'Arafat should admit his utter failure and submit his resignation.

Concluding its press statement, the Palestinian Grouping says: The Palestinian Grouping believes that the alternative to the failing leadership policies is to refer the issue to the people because they are able to take control of things and restore the pan-Arab, Islamic, and humane dimensions and depth to the Palestine question.

[Signed] Bassam al-Shak'ah, secretary general of the Palestinian Grouping

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Minister Announces Serkadji Prison Mutiny Quelled

LD2202143095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1102 GMT 22 Feb 95

[Studio interview with Justice Minister Mohamed Teguia by Amal Meddah in Algiers; from the weekly "Transformations" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Meddah] Ladies and gentlemen, peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you. Welcome to this session of the "Transformations" program. Today's topic revolves around the prisoners' attempt to escape from the Serkadji prison in Algiers yesterday, mercy measures, special judicial councils, and the amendments introduced to the penal code and penal proceedings. [passage omitted]

I will start the interview with the escape attempt yesterday at the Serkadji prison. Your ministry has released a statement on this matter. Can you offer further information on the operation?

[Teguia] I would like to thank the program organizers and the national radio which has given me this good opportunity. Regarding yesterday's events; they were indeed both annoying and worrying for the national public opinion and the officials at the Ministry of Justice, and particularly for the officials of the prison institution and security officials. [passage omitted]

Attempts were made to calm the situation down and return the institution to normality. Indeed, we tried throughout the morning to achieve that. However, the terrorists and their leaders were challenging the security forces and refusing instructions to return to their places and to resort to wisdom to avoid a confrontation between the security officials and prisoners. [passage omitted]

Briefly, the important thing is that the situation has returned to normal and calm has returned to the institution. Everything is calm now. However, as a result, four guards were killed, and over 12 guards and some members of the security forces were injured. Also, some prisoners have been killed or injured. [passage omitted]

Naturally, a security cell was engaged in bringing the situation back to normal. I led and supervised the operation personally throughout the day in cooperation with the security men, the governor of Algiers, and security and various forces' officers. The matter has ended and a judicial investigation into the case has been opened. The threads of the plots will be revealed by the investigation later, God willing.

[Meddah] Let us move to another point. The Transitional National Council recently approved a host of draft laws, which have become laws after they were approved. Among these laws was a measure concerning amnesty. What is the reason for these measures? Mr. minister, do you not think that these measures contradict in some ways the efforts currently being made to destroy terrorism within a legal framework? Do these measures mean the decriminalization of terrorist and sabotage action and letting them go without punishment? And a third point in this question: how would you comment on some views which give a different interpretation to these measures?

[Teguia] First, I would like to point out that the amnesty measures were a confirmation of the state president's speech on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the 1 November revolution, in which he opened the gates of hope which had been closed, and despair and despondency had become prevalent among the youth who had been misled and fallen into the web of terrorism.

This wise policy does not mean that the state will abandon its mission. It will continue its work strongly to restore security and stability in society, and to citizens in general. This idea, or this call, was put into a legal framework—a judicial measure and legal and judicial assurances aimed at affirming the sincere intention of dealing with cases of terrorism. Naturally, terrorism cases are complex and thorny and each case or group has to be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the matter. [passage omitted]

[Meddah] On the subject of special judicial councils. Since their establishment, the special judicial councils have been the subject of strong criticism from home and abroad, particularly by international human rights organizations. Now that these council have been abolished; what are your comments on that period?

[Teguia] Without expanding on this issue, which, as you said, received many criticisms, particularly from those who are tendentious and those with specific political ideas aimed at reaching their aims and objectives, and also from some organizations which claim to protect human rights and respect the laws which serve the society and maintain its structure, in terms of protecting lives and rights.

Indeed, if we deal with this subject briefly—we have seen, read, heard, and received some criticism about these councils—that they were emergency councils which do not enjoy legal safeguards and that their sessions were held in secrecy and not openly like other judicial councils. This is misleading and a distortion of the true nature of these councils.

In fact, the special judicial councils were specialist judicial councils, because they included ordinary professional judges; five judges forming a complete bench, who have wide experiences and expertise. They also ruled on the basis of the ordinary penal code and the penal procedures law. In some cases where serious terrorist actions had been committed and severe punishment may have been required, they may have resorted to the 30 September law. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Meddah] Public opinion is concerned about the fate of some cases related to embezzlement and transfer of public funds, which have been referred to the judiciary for a long time. However, expected rulings have not been made yet. Public opinion asks, Why?

[Teguia] In fact economic cases in general, whether bribery, embezzlement, or cases concerning state fund; these cases are complex. Initially they are based on mere claims and rumors. Therefore investigation into these cases requires a long time. [passage omitted]

98 Prisoners Killed in Prison Mutiny

JN2202182395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic carries within its 1700 GMT newscast on 22 February an interview with Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Algiers Qusayy Salih al-Darwish on the 22 February mutiny at the Serkadji prison in Algiers.

The correspondent says the "final and latest information" available to him indicates that four guards and 98 prisoners were killed in the disturbance, while 12 guards and more than 100 prisoners were wounded. Al-Darwish adds that his sources confirm the killing of Shaykh Surrati [name as transliterated], an imam, and the wounding of Mohamed Buma'rafi [name as transliterated], who assassinated Algerian President Boudiaf.

Alleged Boudiaf Assassin Reportedly Injured

LD2202225795 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The toll in Algiers is very heavy after the revolt of the Islamists in the Serkadji prison. [passage omitted] Here is Jerome Bastion:

[Bastion] At least 100 prisoners killed: this is the unofficial figure given by correspondents of press agencies, quoting several sources—hospitals and lawyers. [passage omitted]

Apart from Ikhlef Cherati, a member of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leadership, and (Ahmed El Pakistani), a GIA [Armed Islamic Group] leader, who were killed, sub-lieutenant Embarek Boumaarafi, the presumed killer of Mohamed Boudiaf, was reportedly seriously injured by a grenade during the final assault by the security forces. [passage omitted]

Dembri Tells Libyan Paper Algeria Rejects Interference

LD2202144795 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 21 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, an Nawar [Feb] 21, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mohamed Salah Dembri, the Algerian foreign minister reaffirmed Algeria's total rejection of interference in the country's domestic affairs. In an interview with the Libyan daily 'AL SHAMS' published today he said that Algeria is an independent state and has friendly relations with many countries throughout the world and did not ask any advice from western states because the basic principle which Algeria adopts is the principle of non interfering in the affairs of other states.

The foreign minister confirmed that Algeria is an integral part of the Arab homeland and that its diplomacy is based on negotiations. But in respect of normalisation of relations with the Israeli enemy the issue is left to the Arab League.

Regarding the position of Algeria vis a vis the Middle Eastern market, the Algerian foreign minister said that the [word indistinct] of the collective Arab stance, the lack of co- ordination and the absence of economic integration between Arab states has weakened the Arab position, which puts us in the situation of the silent partner, regarding Algeria's signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Algerian foreign minister said that his country's signing of the treaty gives it power to negotiate but as for renewal this will be conducted through consultation with Arabs and within the pattern of the Non-aligned Movement as Algeria co-ordinates with some states to create a solid unified stance in the next meeting which will handle the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty renewal.

Egypt

Musa on Talks With 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee

NC2202125295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described the talks among Palestinian President 'Arafat and members of the PLO Executive Committee as lengthy and very important. Musa said that during the talks they reviewed developments in the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track, the obstacles to the peace process, and what can be done to strengthen the process and make some progress in it.

'Amr Musa said: In Yasir 'Arafat's opinion, no progress has been made and the issue does not exceed mere promises. There will be high-level meetings soon to bring viewpoints between the Palestinian and Israeli sides closer, meetings in which 'Arafat will take part.

He added: We in Egypt are following this situation with great interest. President Mubarak has informed 'Arafat of his great interest in the peace process and said that Israel should implement the agreement it has signed, particularly with regard to redeploying Israeli forces, holding elections, and moving from the first stage to the second stage, because the Palestinian-Israeli peace is based on a continuous process, not on Gaza-Jericho alone. We cannot accept that implementation of the Palestinian agreement is restricted to Gaza-Jericho only.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Things must move quickly to the second stage, which starts with elections throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Answering a question on Egypt's stance on the crisis in the negotiations and President 'Arafat's recent call for intervention by the international community to save the peace process, 'Amr Musa said: We in Egypt are doing our utmost to help the peace process. We are not happy with what it has achieved so far. We cannot remain quiet about its achievements.

The foreign minister clarified that none of the countries taking part in the peace process accept its achievements to date. As for internationalizing the peace process, this is a Palestinian viewpoint that has been expressed occasionally. But, he added, I believe there is still time before adopting such ideas.

Asked whether the meeting to discuss refugees' affairs will convene on Sunday [26 February], 'Amr Musa said: This meeting has been postponed.

On whether there is a crisis in relations between Egypt and Israel, Musa said: I cannot describe it as a crisis and there is no need to describe it as such.

Asked about his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo on Thursday, the foreign minister said that some topics will be discussed relating to Egyptian-Israeli relations and Egypt's views on signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. peace process accept its achievements to date. As for internationalizing the peace process, this is a Palestinian viewpoint that has been expressed occasionally. But, he added, I believe there is still time before adopting such ideas.

Asked whether the meeting to discuss refugees' affairs will convene on Sunday, 'Amr Musa said: This meeting has been postponed.

On whether there is a crisis in relations between Egypt and Israel, Musa said: I cannot describe it as a crisis and there is no need to describe it as such.

Asked about his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo on Thursday, the foreign minister said that some topics will be discussed relating to Egyptian-Israeli relations and Egypt's views on signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres Meets With Leaders

Mubarak Receives Peres

NC2302085795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Presidential Office this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Peres-Mubarak Discuss Process

NC2302104595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that during their meeting today Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres discussed with President Mubarak developments in the peace process, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and the nuclear program, which took up a significant part of the discussion. Musa added that it was agreed during the meeting to continue the talks between the two sides at the Foreign Ministry later today to come up with new ideas on these two topics. He pointed out that his discussion with Peres will continue to explore new ideas to give impetus to the peace proses. He hoped that an agreement will be reached to give momentum to the peace process.

Musa Meets With Peres

NC2302112795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has held a round of talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting they were due to finalize discussion of issues that were covered when President Husni Mubarak received Peres today.

Government Proposes 3 NPT Scenarios to Israel

JN2202170295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam from Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Egyptian official has disclosed to AL-HAYAH that Egypt has made three proposals to Israel to end the standoff over Israel's signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. These proposals could offer a formula that enables the other parties to extend the NPT mandate at a conference that will be held in Geneva on 17 April for this purpose.

The three proposals are:

1. Israel can sign the NPT at the date set for its renewal. Israel has rejected this proposal.

2. Setting a deadline deemed long enough by Israel (as a grace period) provided that Israel signs the NPT at the end of this period. In return, Egypt freezes its signature during this period.

3. Israel can produce a letter pledging to join the NPT at a specified date. In this case, Israel automatically joins the NPT once the deadline expires.

An Egyptian diplomatic source told AL-HAYAH that the problem is not whether or not to extend the mandate of the NPT indefinitely. It is the existence of a case of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nuclear ambiguity, which is the case of Israel. In addition, Israel has a nuclear program which must be kept under surveillance from the strategic, security, and environmental aspects.

The source said that in light of the 25-year experience, from 1970 until today, the indefinite extension of the NPT will only maintain this case of ambiguity. The source further noted that a just and comprehensive peace means balanced security, which will not be achieved without observing Israel's nuclear armaments.

The source revealed that Israel focused in contacts held with it on the environmental aspect and said that it has technical expertise to prevent a new Chernobyl disaster on our eastern border (referring to the Dimona reactor in Negev). We replied that despite all the expertise of the United States, one of its nuclear reactors experienced a leakage incident.

The source added that Egypt would not tolerate a nuclear deployment on its border, whether it is in Israel, Sudan, or Libya. We will adhere to this position whatever the pressures and consequences because the question now has to do with Egypt's security and existence, and the Americans should understand this.

The source noted that the Israelis raised the issue of Iran's possession of nuclear weapons. We told them: You should persuade Iran to clarify its position, since Israeli-Iranian ties had been better than Iranian-Arab ties for a long period of time. In addition, our information confirms that Iran does not possess a nuclear weapon.

The source added: The Israelis want Pakistan to sign the indefinite extension of the NPT, although they did not raise this issue in their contacts with us and focused only on Iran.

The source hoped that while "the Arab League Council will issue a joint Arab resolution at its next session on 23 March, every state will be given the right to adopt the stand that it deems appropriate for its interests." On whether it is possible to fail to implement such a resolution, as happened with the resolution issued by the Arab League Council in September 1991 on refusing to sign the international treaty on the nonproliferation of chemical weapons at the Paris conference on 13 January 1992, the source explained that Egypt is consulting with the Arab states in an attempt to arrive at a unified stand.

AL-HAYAH has learned that the Egyptian Government sent a memorandum to the U.S. Administration stressing "Egypt's absolute adherence to its declared stand unless an equation is reached achieving the objective and content of the Egyptian stand." The memorandum expressed Egypt's astonishment at the "eagerness to give Israel a privilege and granting it a regional edge." It also expresses astonishment at "the United States' shunning of negotiations on the question of Israel's signing and its adoption of the Israeli position seeking to change the Egyptian position." The memorandum expresses amazement that while "Israeli justifications for postponing the signing have been accepted, dissatisfaction has been expressed at the Egyptian stand."

An Egyptian diplomatic source criticized what he described as the "blunt Israeli attack" and "the U.S. insinuation" charging Cairo with "mobilizing Arab, Islamic, African, and nonaligned states against extending the mandate of the treaty." The source said: "It is natural to hold consultations on an issue that affects the security guarantees of nonnuclear states, which constitute the overwhelming majority."

Meanwhile, members of the Egyptian Consultative Council praised Egypt's refusal to sign the treaty before Israel does. They stressed that "unilateral possession of nuclear arms will disrupt the regional balance of power and call for aggression."

In a separate development, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry recalled Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni for consultations on the Egyptian-Israeli relations in light of the Israeli refusal to sign the NPT.

U.S. Criticized for Not Pressuring Israel on NPT

NC2302075195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0701 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized the United States for not putting pressure on Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. It pointed out the serious crisis the United States sparked off when it accused North Korea of trying to produce nuclear weapons from its private reactors and its insistence on inspecting these reactors. The issue nearly turned into war between the two sides.

AL-AKHBAR said in its comment today that nations, particularly the Arabs, are wondering why the United States does not use the same style with Israel, which has so far insisted on not signing the Treaty.

The newspaper noted Israel's behavior when Iraq tried to build a nuclear reactor with French help. Israel then quickly launched its warplanes to destroy it under the cover of night. The international community was never really interested in seriously investigating this issue, which passed without punishment.

AL-AHRAM said Israel's insistence on refusing to sign the Treaty in no way serves the peace process. It threatens to end it and return the region to a state of tension, which means that all the peace efforts exerted over the past few years will collapse.

The newspaper said that Israel's leaders could solve this problem if they asked themselves one question: Will convincing Israel to sign the Treaty serve the peace cause and prevent Egypt and the other countries, known for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their scientific and technological abilities, from attempting to join the nuclear race?

The newspaper concluded its comment, saying that the continuing building and development of nuclear weapons could put the Middle East at the core of the end of the universe, instead of allowing it to continue its role as the legal heir of the people who gave the world all three divine religions and humanitarian civilizations the light from which continues to fill the world.

Editor Reacts to Rabin's 'Insolent' 'Lying'

NC2102205895 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 15 Feb 95 p 1

[Editorial signed by "the editor": "No, Mr. Rabin, the Rotten Wind Blows From Your Side"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel arrogantly announces every day that it will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] when it comes up for renewal in April, and that consequently, it will not subject its nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. If it is doing this, then it certainly does not intend to give up its nuclear arsenal, which many knowledgeable international sources estimate at 300 warheads along with their launching rockets!

Egypt, which signed and ratified the NPT in its first phase, believes that Israel's nuclear arsenal poses a serious threat to the security and stability of the Middle East, provides an excuse for an unlimited arms race, and constitutes a departure from the logic of peace at a time when all of us, supposedly, are working so peace can exist in the entire region.

Hence, all Egypt—government, people, and parties—fully supports President Mubarak's initiative to free the Middle East from weapons of mass destruction and believes that all options must remain open for the Egyptian Government if Israel fails to sign the NPT or if we and Israel fail to reach a suitable and acceptable formula, as President Mubarak has recently said to the London-based AL-HAYAH.

What we would like to call attention to first and foremost is that there are differences worldwide on the renewal of the NPT, involving many countries. The Egyptian-Israeli dispute is not the only one. Many non-nuclear countries reject the principle of indefinite extension of the NPT and demand that the nuclear countries set a definitive timetable for a full and final elimination of their nuclear arsenals so that humanity may not continue to live under this threat, which is monopolized by a handful of countries. Other countries are refusing to sign the NPT because their neighbors possess nuclear weapons, and they link their signing with a solution to their problems with their neighbors; this is the case with Pakistan, India, and North Korea.

These differences and the accompanying clamor on the renewal of the NPT provide legal and ethical international legitimacy for Egypt's position and deprive the Israeli side of this legitmacy as it was the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the region and which is now asking the other countries to yield to the fait accompli, something no one will tolerate!

Yesterday, Yitzhaq Rabin stood before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee complaining about this Egyptian position, which tries to get Israel to sign the NPT. He said Egypt is using this issue as an instrument of pressure to annoy the Jewish state and spoil its efforts to establish relations with the other Arab countries. He also said that "rotten winds" are blowing from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, expressing hope that this will be a temporary matter!

As a matter of fact, Rabin is lying with these statements that the news agencies cited him as saying twice. The Arab states, Mr. Rabin, are sober and independent and make their decisions in accordance with their national and pan-Arab interests and are not subservient to Egypt. When they decide to sign the NPT or to take their time in normalizing ties with Israel, they do so in response to their real interests as Arab countries within an area that is under the threat of your nuclear arsenal. Nonetheless, Cairo has a right and is even duty bound to explain to its brothers in the Arab World its views and the dangers surrounding the region as a result of the Israeli nuclear arsenal, acts of terror, or any other suspicious phenomena. This, Mr. Rabin, is your first lie. Your second lie is "insolent" because it accuses us of something which is actually Israel's fault. You say, Mr. Rabin, that rotten winds were blowing from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry although these rotten winds were blowing from your side, winds loaded with lethal venom, winds that are both rotten and venomous at the same time.

You are breaking all rules of joint security in our region and you think it is too much for us to fix these broken rules to protect peace and stability for all parties, not just one party at the expense of all others.

We, Mr. Rabin, believe in peace, stability, and joint security and aspire to build on our land a beautiful, strong, liberated, and advanced homeland. That is why our President Husni Mubarak called for clearing the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction and not only nuclear ones. As for you, your keenness to have venomous nuclear fangs is stronger than your desire for peace, stability, and joint security and is indeed even stronger than your care for the interests of the ordinary Israeli citizen.

Last, we tell you that the family of great builders since the dawn of history does not destroy nor support destruction. We still entertain the hope to teach you as we have taught mankind before the genuine rules of good neighborliness and the real substance of the peace of the strong. If the suicide complex still has roots in your hearts, our Arab and Islamic culture teaches us love for life and concern about the afterlife at the same time. Our noble prophet said: Do for your life as if you would live forever, and do for the afterlife as if you were going to die tomorrow.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Honestly, we still support peace because we love life and we hope that you will realize this well if you really desire peace and love life. Enough of stirring up feelings and opening the repugnant complexes of the past.

Article Alleges Israeli Anti-Musa Campaign

NC2102190595 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 17 Feb 95 pp 3-5

[Article by chief editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Why This Israeli Campaign Against 'Amr Musa?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is the target of a ridiculous campaign of lies being conducted in Israeli political corridors. Echoes of this campaign reverberate in some U.S. departments, which accuse the Egyptian minister of being the bad spirit [preceding two words in English] who has recently been driving a wedge between Egypt and Israel. They say that if Musa had not been in his current important post, the disagreements between the two countries would not have reached their present extent and compromises would have been reached in an atmosphere of quiet diplomacy away from the noise of public positions.

It is regrettable that this evil description came from a senior Israeli official in the wake of Cairo's quadripartite summit, held 10 days ago to salvage the peace process, which is facing considerable difficulties that threaten to halt or even derail it entirely.

They blame the Egyptian foreign minister for several stands:

On his first official visit to Israel, 'Amr Musa refused to comply with the traditions of Israeli protocol that compel every foreign visitor to begin his official stay with a tour of the "Yad Vashem" Holocaust memorial. The foreign minister explained his position thus: Egypt was not a party to the aggression which was carried out against the Jews in several Western countries and hence it does not feel a special responsibility for the spread of anti- Semitism in Western Europe which led to massacres of the Jews in Nazi-controlled Poland and Germany. When the situation threatened to get out of hand, 'Amr Musa visited instead another memorial nearby dedicated to Jewish children victims. But he did not visit "Yad Vashem."

—During the Casablanca summit the Israeli delegation tried to market its plans and schemes for a new Middle East that would eliminate all the obstacles preventing close cooperation between Israel and its Arab neighbors even before a comprehensive peace was established. It was then that 'Amr Musa uttered a warning that placed the issue in its proper perspective and affirmed that a comprehensive peace is the only way to open the door for a new Middle East in which all the regional countries would cooperate in a manner that equally protects each country's rights. He warned of the danger inherent in the huge difficulties confronting the Palestinian negotiating track because of the continued building of Israeli settlements, Israel's plan to swallow up Jerusalem, and the Rabin government's procrastination in implementing the commitments which it accepted when it signed the Oslo Agreement.

—'Amr Musa's impromptu remarks—which he made in response to Rabin's speech which included several references to Israel's determination to annex Jerusalem—were intended to rearrange the conference's priorities in a proper manner. This meant that each party's obligations and responsibilities regarding the peace plan would be made clear because it is meaningless to speak about a new Middle East before recognizing the rights of the Palestinians, withdrawing from the Golan Heights, and making a clear Israeli commitment to keep the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

—When Israeli newspapers intentionally leaked a strange Israeli Foreign Ministry position paper outlining proposals to penalize Egypt for its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], 'Amr Musa responded with a mixture of ridicule and contempt for the false megalomania that made some people in the Israeli Foreign Ministry believe that they could punish Egypt as outlined in an official document that "deserved only to be thrown into the wastebasket."

But the thing that enrages the Israelis most about 'Amr Musa is his insistence on explaining, in courageous language and at every conference and forum attended by Israeli leaders, the differences between the Egyptian and Israeli positions so that things will be clear and explicit, with no room for ambiguity or misunderstanding.

In this method, the Egyptian foreign minister proceeds from a firm policy dictated by Egypt's national interests and its pan-Arab responsibility for the peace process. But the problem with the Israelis is that they consider any differences in views a kind of premeditated hostility toward Israel. They do not hesitate to use all possible means and ways to place their adversaries on the defensive even if this means mixing up facts and tactics and using intellectual terrorism that reaches the point of accusing its adversaries of anti-Semitism and hatred of the Jews!

In the recent past, they did this to Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and now they are doing it to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. But the two are aware of these methods thanks to their long experience in negotiations with the Israelis, their profound knowledge of the details of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and their ability to engage in a courageous confrontation based on intellectual clarity backed by firm and unambiguous policies dictated by Egypt's national and pan-Arab interests.

What is more surprising and astonishing, however, is the Israelis' malicious endeavor to spread their campaign

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

against the Egyptian foreign minister to Washington. The JERUSALEM POST says in its 6 February issue that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry does not stop at asking Israel to sign the NPT, but even attempts to undermine the NPT itself through a broad campaign to instigate the Arab and Third World countries, a campaign in which the Egyptian diplomacy is secretly engaged despite the seriousness of the treaty and its importance for the stability of world order.

The peace process is currently facing a severe crisis that will not be solved by the Israeli campaign against the Egyptian foreign minister nor by their attempts to create a dispute between Egypt and the United States, because Egypt will not do in secret what it cannot do in public and in broad daylight. Also, Egypt is not opposed to the NPT and it does not seek to destroy it. On the contrary, Egypt wants the NPT to acquire a credibility which it will only gain when Israel signs it on equal footing like the other states. This will become even more urgent and necessary if a new regional system is required in the Middle East based on the right of all parties to equal security and not on one party's monopoly of a nuclear program aimed at dominating the future and fates of others.

Similarly, economic cooperation among the peoples and countries of the Middle East must not ignore or sidestep the peace process. The right path requires that efforts to bring about regional cooperation must be based on a comprehensive peace that will strengthen the opportunities for cooperation among the regional peoples. Therefore, the attainment of a comprehensive and fair peace becomes an indispensable condition for sound economic cooperation to move the Middle East to a new stage based on exchanges of benefits and mutual confidence.

Naturally, the parties concerned can hold dialogues and discuss matters, as at the latest meeting in Taba, which was attended by the U.S. secretary of commerce, and as is happening in the multilateral committees meeting in various capitals of the world. However, all talks and discussions will remain mere hopes that cannot be fulfilled without establishing a fair and comprehensive peace that restores people's rights. Thus, any talk about the formation of a new alliance in the Middle East that would include Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians, or of a new regional organization including the Cairo conference states will only come true after a comprehensive peace has been established.

Regrettably, the Israelis are not happy about this clear Egyptian stance despite the obvious fact that the growing violence in the occupied territories and inside Israel itself will become even worse and more serious under the policies of repression, collective punishment, keeping the Palestinian detainees as hostages in jail to pressure Yasir 'Arafat, refusing to withdraw from the West Bank cities, and continuing to build settlements under false pretexts that absolve the Israeli government of responsibility while giving the settlers a free hand to do what they want.

Why is Rabin detaining Palestinians who are PLO members even though the PLO is his partner in the Palestinian-Israeli peace plan?

Why is he refusing to withdraw from the West Bank towns so that the overdue Palestinian elections can be held?

Why is he allowing the settlers to expand their settlements, denying his responsibility by saying only that the Israeli Treasury is not financing this expansion and that the matter is merely an activity by the residents?

These policies will not help stop the growing wave of violence in the occupied territories. An end to violence can be achieved not only by pressuring 'Arafat into taking a more decisive stance against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, but also by Israel's meeting its obligations and improving the living conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. It can be achieved by helping 'Arafat fulfill his responsibilities to the Palestinian people, not by pushing him toward a Palestinian civil war whose flames would extend to Israel itself, and perhaps to the entire region.

The Israelis have heard these views from Egypt on many occasions, and I believe they heard them once again at the recent meeting in Washington of the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the PLO. U.S. President Bill Clinton attended part of the meeting. As usual, 'Amr Musa was clear and frank, reflecting the honesty of the Egyptian position; for, this is far more than a personal issue.

A misunderstanding of Egypt's responsibility for peace is the reason for the blunder in Israel's current policies toward Egypt. These policies are divided between two opposing trends:

—One stresses the need to maintain strong and close relations with Egypt because the Egyptian gate is the only gate that gives Israel a chance to truly integrate with the Middle East. This trend believes that Egypt's fears regarding the peace process are factual and justified, and that the absence of Egypt in the peace process would mean its deadlock and collapse, because both the Palestinians and the Syrians, despite their big differences, trust the Egyptian position. Therefore, it is necessary for Israel to address seriously Egypt's fears and to cooperate with Egypt to surmount the obstacles to peace, because there is no alternative to continued efforts to achieve a just settlement.

The other trend advocates belittling and limiting the Egyptian role. It feels that Egypt is making hardline peace demands that are sometimes difficult and sometimes indeed impossible, in order to avoid losing its leading role in the Arab world and the Middle East (!)

Regrettably the winner frequently is the latter trend, which intentionally misreads Egypt's motives and imagines that it can force Egypt to adopt a neutral position on the issues of the Golan Heights, the settlements, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

withdrawal from the West Bank and Jerusalem. The advocates of this trend sometimes go as far as imagining that they can punish Egypt and force it to comply with Israeli wishes.

It was in the context of this shortsighted view that a senior Israeli official, whose identity is being carefully concealed, leveled accusations against Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. When this official says that Egypt is afraid of losing its leading status in the Arab world and the Middle East, he is actually misinterpreting Egypt's motives.

What is really regrettable in all this is that the Israelis are behaving as if Egypt has just introduced a new foreign policy rather than an old policy the dimensions and objectives of which it has always made public.

The Israelis are speaking now as if Egypt's attitude to the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Israeli settlements is a new position that has just been adopted rather than being at the core of long-established and public Egyptian policies. President Mubarak has asserted these policies for the past 10 years, warning against any attempt to squander Arab rights because peace must be just, comprehensive, and must equally guarantee the rights of all concerned parties.

This consistent and clear Egyptian position proceeds from Egypt's profound commitment to a comprehensive peace, based on the land-for- peace principle and drawing its legality from important UN resolutions that have been accepted by all the parties, including Israel. These resolutions emphasize the importance of withdrawal from the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967 and guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Without fulfilling these conditions, there will be no lasting peace, no safe coexistence, nor a new Middle East blessed with mutual stability and security.

The Egyptian diplomatic establishment bases its attitudes on this commitment and makes arduous efforts in the defense of a comprehensive and just peace. This is because a comprehensive and just peace serves Egyptian national interests and enjoys national and pan-Arab backing, which Israel cannot possibly misunderstand.

Al-Baz Rules Out Tension in U.S., Israeli Ties

NC2202131795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1143 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has ruled out any tension in relations between Egypt and the United States or between Egypt and Israel. He noted that there is only a disagreement in views on some important issues.

Speaking on the television program "Good Morning Egypt" today, al-Baz said that a variation in views between any two states does not mean crisis or tension in their relations.

He pointed out that Egypt is entitled to adopt particular positions on some vital issues that affect its national security and these stands need not please other parties.

He said the reason for disagreement with the United States is attributed to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, adding: We have clear motives for our positions on the Treaty.

Citizenship for Palestinian Residents Requested

JN1902165495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 19 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (INA)—Palestinian diplomatic sources have said that the United States and the Zionist entity have asked the Egyptian regime to grant Egyptian citizenship to the Palestinians residing in Egypt since the 1948 war, who total more than 30,000.

In a statement to the correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Cairo, these sources added that Egypt's acceptance of this U.S. request would be viewed as a serious precedent that would compromise the future of the Palestinian people and their destiny, and provide the United States and the Zionist entity with strong excuses to deny the Palestinian people their right to repatriation.

The sources indicated that the Egyptian Government plans to endorse this request after submitting it to the People's Assembly. Once this is done, the United States will ask other Arab states, such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria, to follow suit. Thus, Israel will have coped with the biggest hurdle it has faced since the emergence of the Palestine question.

Columnist Rejects NATO's Security Proposal

NC2302113895 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Feb 95 p 8

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "NATO and Fundamentalism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt that the manifestations of extremism and terrorism that are shaking the pillars of stability to various degrees in some of the Islamic countries are in the final analysis problems that concern these countries themselves. They know them better and are more capable of confronting them. The moment these problems become an excuse for foreign intervention, then the question goes beyond merely one of assistance to resist terrorism to one of an attempt to exploit it to achieve other political, economic, and military objectives.

It is from this premise that NATO's new policies of establishing what is called security coordination with five countries from North Africa and the Middle East, including Egypt, to confront what NATO's new secretary general, Willy Claes, called the "dangers of Islamic fundamentalism" are causing worries over the alliance's real objectives. This is true especially if the matter is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

linked to plans being drawn up to deploy a defensive missile network for confronting the threats of attacks from Middle Eastern countries which, as Israel is claiming, are on the verge of obtaining nuclear weapons, such as Iran, or which are accused of being hostile to the West, such as Libya and Iraq.

NATO is a military alliance whose mission is to defend the Western countries and their interests against military dangers from outside forces. It is noted that the exaggerated talk about the danger of an attack from the Middle East on the West is incredible. Not a single country in the region—with the exception of Israel—has the ability to threaten Western Europe militarily. Hence, the phenomenon of terrorism or Islamic fundamentalism has nothing to do with any dangers threatening the Western countries. Even if some manifestations of the Algerian crisis and its repercussions have started to appear as if reaching France or other European countries, they are none of the affairs that fall within NATO's military objectives. Any attempt to create threats stemming from "Islamic fundamentalism" will not be explained, other than an attempt to impose NATO's influence on the Middle East and the Arab and Islamic countries.

The problems of terrorism are not restricted to the Islamic world. Neo-Nazism in Germany and Neo-Fascism in Italy, Spain, and France are perpetrating terrorist actions against innocent people: foreigners and others. Additionally, some of the NATO countries are sheltering some terrorist elements and giving them political asylum. The Bosnia war is the largest farm for exporting terrorism and training its cadres in Europe and the Middle East.

The Middle Eastern and North African countries' ability to solve their internal economic, political, and social problems will certainly limit the danger of terrorism in their region. Therefore, NATO must spare us its efforts and devote itself to confronting the dangers threatening it from the heart of Europe, or from Russia, or from the extremist European right wing.

Policeman Killed; 2 Others Wounded in al-Minya

NC2202122795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—A policeman was martyred and an officer and a conscript were wounded when unidentified assailants opened fire at them today along the al-Ashmunayn road in Naway, al-Minya Governorate.

An official Interior Ministry source said the assailants opened fire at Captain Hasan al-Sayyid Ahmad Bughdadi, of the al-Minya Security Directorate, and the force under his command in the area of Naway.

The force returned fire at the assailants, who escaped after a shoot-out with the force. The captain and conscript Ahmad Muhammad Abu-Bakr were wounded and policeman Rajab Salih Khalil was killed as a result.

Leading cadres in the al-Minya Security Directorate, the various detective agencies, and the criminology laboratory experts went to the scene to examine it. The police are trying to apprehend the culprits. The prosecution was notified to start an investigation.

Libya

UN Asked To Investigate U.S. Human Rights Violations

LD2202205595 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, the Libyan permanent representative at the United Nations has requested the formation of an international committee to investigate the grave violations of human rights in America.

U.S. 'Successive Blows' to 'Palestine' Seen

LD2202183995 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 22 Feb (JANA)—The newspaper AL-SHAMS, published here this morning, carries an analytical article on the Palestinian issue under the caption: "What is left of Palestine." The article says:

"The U.S. Government has been dealing very quick and successive blows, in record time, against our Arab region, and as soon as the area has hardly begun to regain consciousness from one shock, it is dealt another blow. [passage omitted]

"Ever since the so-called Madrid conference in October 1991 to this moment, American blows have not ceased. [passage omitted]

The Casablanca summit declaration said that the Israelis must be integrated into the area, and the Arab markets and Arab doors must be opened to them. Under the so-called multilateral committees, the Israelis entered a number of Arab countries under the cover of 'experts.' The war criminal Rabin began to roam about our greater Arab homeland, from the far west to the far east, and the same was accorded to his spies.

"Alongside these successive blows, which in the first place helped the Israeli state, some news has leaked out recently about another shattering blow, which is being used as pressure by the U.S. Government. Its aim is to obliterate the entire Palestinian issue by putting an end to the symbols of this issue, represented by the homeless sons of Palestine in the diaspora who are scattered in most Arab countries."

The newspaper explains: "News has leaked out about American pressures being exerted with regard to giving those Palestinians who live in Arab countries the nationality of the countries in which they are residing. This means completely liquidating the Palestinian identity

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and turning the pages of the issue in readiness for striking it out, even from the institutions of the UN."

The newspaper confirms that the American plot is a serious conspiracy, equal to all previous measures adopted by the U.S. government for the benefit of the Israelis. Therefore, the Arab masses must remain vigilant to the dimensions of the plot and should expose its contents. The masses must stand up to the plot most strongly through wide mass action, which should declare at official and popular level that they reject the naturalization. They should also should cling to the Palestinian identity, which is the symbol and the window of the struggle, and is their basic logic against the Israeli invaders. At the same time, they should widen the circle of confrontation by intensifying Arab support, and should open the common borders with Arab Palestine to the Arab youth so that it can participate in the liberation of Palestine from the River Jordan to the sea through the immediate implementation of all the charters of joint Arab defense. They should revive the pan-Arab calls raised from the land of the Great al-Fatih some time ago, especially the calls for pan-Arabising the battle and pan-Arabising the fedayeen action, because these two things are sure to curb and deter the present crusader-American campaign and foil the entire Israeli settlement scheme.

JANA Arab Editor Comments on Ibrahimi Massacre

LD1602145995 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Middle East Center television network [London-based] relayed interviews with a number of Israeli colonialists, in which they described the terrorist who carried out the Ibrahimi massacre in Hebron last year as a hero, an angel, and a great man.

The Libyan news agency's Arab affairs editor commented on this by saying:

Statements made by those Israeli colonialists show to what extent they revered this criminal, who carried out one of the ugliest massacres history has known against Palestinian Arab worshipers during their morning prayer during Ramadan, desecrating the holiness of the Ibrahimi mosque with official Israeli planning at a time when the Israeli terrorists and their western allies describe our Palestinian Arab martyrs as terrorists. The so-called Palestinian self-rule authority arrests and chases the revolutionaries of the anger generation, carrying out the Israeli enemy's orders in an attempt to deny them struggle and the jihad to liberate their usurped lands. [passage omitted]

Israeli 'Plotting' Assailed

LD1702175595 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 17 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, an Nawar [Feb] 17, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Middle East Broadcasting Company (MBC) transmitted four interviews with a number of Israeli colonisers, who described, in their statements, the terrorist that carried out the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, in al-Khalil [Hebron] last year, as a hero, an angel, and a great man.

JANA's Arab affairs editor has commented on such statements, and said: The statements by these Israeli colonisers reveal the extent of consecration by the Israeli terrorists for that criminal, who carried out the most atrocious massacre known in history against Arab Palestinian worshippers, during Ramadan prayers, thus desecrating the sanctity of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, through official Israeli plotting.

Meanwhile terrorist Israelis, and their western allies, describe our Arab Palestinian martyrs as terrorists, the self-rule authority is also implementing the orders of the Israeli enemy and hunts the revolutionaries of the wrath generation, thus attempting to deprive them of their national duty to liberate their seized home through struggle. The editor called for paying due attention and respect for Arab Palestinian martyrs and their consecration because they fell while performing patriotic acts. The editor is calling upon the brothers in Palestine to look after their graves and to turn them into shrines to epitomise the values of sacrifice and jihad.

The editor concluded by saying that: We call for more care for our Arab Palestinian martyrs, who offered their blood for the liberation of Palestine. We confirm that the Arab nation, with its glorious history and civilisation, shall not forget its faithful sons, who fell, while defending the dignity and pride of this great nation. We are reminded that the tool for the execution of the horrible massacre the terrorist assassin, Baruch Goldstein, aged 38, worked as a doctor in the colony of Qiryat 'Arba. He emigrated to occupied Palestine in 1982 from Brooklyn, New York, and was one of the constituent elements for the terrorist movement Kach, which was [word indistinct] by the terrorist Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The terrorist assassin Goldstein assumed the rank of major in the reserve forces in the enemies army. A day before he carried out the massacre, he appeared carrying a machine gun loaded with live ammunition and announced publically to an Israeli crowd that all Arabs in Palestine must be killed and that he himself will act to do so and called on the others publically and openly to follow suit.

The leader of the revolution made a statement to JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY on 25th An Nawar 1423 in which he stated that what took place on the morning of the middle of the holy month of Ramadhan is a horrible terrorist crime and one of the most vicious crimes of terror and one of the meanest war crimes. It is state sponsored terrorism officially master-minded by the Israeli Government—the very conduct which it followed since its establishment, under the protection of the west and the continued support by western forces for its terrorist policy based on massacres.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Despite the fact that this is the worst example of terrorism known to the world it is [word indistinct] and obvious but we challenge the west to declare this fact and admit that what the Israelis were responsible state-sponsored terrorism which is only a ring within a long series of Israeli acts of terror, which they should denounce. [as received]

The leader added that the west, which placed the strugglers of the Palestinian people on the black list are the ones who provide Israelis terrorists with weapons and are arming them with atom bombs and fighter aircraft F15 and F16. The west are the ones who support Israeli terrorism and treat the strugglers of the Palestinian people as if they are criminals as they fight for one of the most sacred causes of humanity in the modern era. We believe that if there was a real Security Council, other than this which is controlled by the Christians, and if there was a real United Nations other than this one which is cmntrolled by the Christians, we would have seen any one who supports Israeli terrorists and supplies them with arms and atom bombs and other deadly weapons placed on the black list and they would have been blockaded by sea, air and land and sanctions would have been re-imposed as they are partners in terrorism because they provide the Israeli terrorist camp with weapons.

We are challenging if there was an international community to assume its required humanitarian duty to establish justice. Is there any one after all that happened today, saying that Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and Ahmad Jibril are two terrorists.

Following this terrorism and the prospective state-sponsored terrorism carried out by the Israeli entity, there is no state in the world that is a greater terrorist than the Israeli entity and there is no state in the world that sponsors terrorism like those states which sponsor Israel and provide it with arms and make it a strategic ally. Abu Nidal, Ahmad Jibril and other Palestinian people's fighter are angels in comparison with the savage Israelis. They did not commit such atrocities, committed by the Israelis against the innocent worshippers during the holy month. But they are defending their land, which was occupied by the aggressor Israeli invaders who came from overseas to commit such atrocities, which make the blood freeze in the body.

Everything taking place currently shows the correctness of our vision towards this problem and re-affirms our statements, which we made repeatedly.

The Security Council previously failed in reaching an agreement to issue a resolution condemning the massacre committed by the Israeli terrorists against the worshippers in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque, leading to the deaths of scores of innocent Arab-Palestinian worshippers. The council intended to delay its sessions during the days which followed the massacre upon the request of the American delegate.

The Arab affairs editor commented at that time and said, the failure of the so-called Security Council to condemn this horrible masacre which is the most vicious and most atrocious state-sponsored terrorism, exposes before the whole world the reality of the council, which is controlled by the Christians and manipulated by the crusading west as a tool in the service of their interests and as a sword brandished on the heads of those who refuse its extortionist policies and who refuse to submit to its will.

Despite the elapse of a week after the atrocious massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and despite the established responsibility of the Israeli Government for this terrorist crime, which claimed scores of Arab-Palestinian Muslim workshippers while they were saying their prayers in the al-Ibrahimi holy mosque the so-called Security Council is delaying its sessions and is vacilating in issuing a condemnation of the Israeli criminals, who are still shedding the blood of Arab Palestinians, at a time when the council was discussing the horrible massacre.

The editor added that this exposed position by the so-called Security Council is the same position of the west which does not want to declare the fact and does not want to admit that the acts of the Israelis and state-sponsored terrorism masterminded within a long saga of Israeli terrorist acts and according Israelis should be condemned for terrorism.

The editor confirmed that this is a new scandal for the so-called Security Council, which holds urgent sessions and issues with all enthusiasm the resolutions of sanctions and blockades when they concern the Arabs and labels them with various terrorist descriptions and applies chapter 7 against them even if the resolutions were based on mere suspicion. At the same time they turn a blind eye to one of the worst terrorist crimes committed by the Israelis formally and openly before the whole world and refuse to issue even a simple denunciation of the criminals.

Such a stance has no justification except that it is the western crusader indifference regarding the lives of Arabs. Their blood is being shed as if they were not a human race. At the same time they encourage terrorist Israelis to carry out further massacres against the Palestinian people. This is further evidence of the conspiracy and strategy for annihiliating Arabs and Muslims through the combined plotting and alliance between Christians and Jews.

Morocco

Ministry Denies Part in Arab-Israeli Naval Exercise

LD2202140595 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Feb. 22 (MAP)—Morocco categorically denied its participation in an

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Arab-Israeli naval exercise in the Mediterranean, as reported by 'REUTERS'. A spokesman for the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation denied any participation in such an exercise.

REUTERS reported Sunday [19 February] that Israeli Defense Ministry officials had said that Israel was to join at least eight Arab countries in a naval exercise in the Mediterranean next month. The exercise falls within the frame of the multi-lateral negotiations on armaments control and regional security in the Middle East to be resumed shortly in Tunisia, the Israeli officials had said.

Other Arab countries, namely Algeria, Kuwait, Oman and Tunisia, have also denied participation in the exercise.

Sudan

Government Denies Entry to Belgian Archbishop

EA2202180795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has declared its refusal to receive the archbishop of the Belgian churches [title as heard]. Speaking at the Foreign Ministry forum yesterday, Mr. 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, said Sudan's refusal was in response to the hostile attitude adopted and the campaign mounted by the archbishop of the Belgian churches, by submitting to the European Parliament what he termed, new documents against Sudan. Mr. Baridu said this campaign had prompted the parliament to issue a statement condemning Sudan. His excellency added that Sudan was an open country, but could not countenance some quarters passing absolute judgement before acquainting themselves with the facts.

People's Army Dismisses 'Dictatorial' Leader

MM2302090495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Feb 95 p 5

[Report by Imam Muhammad Imam: "Sudanese Circles Speak of Dismissal of Mashar from Command"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The military command of the [Sudanese] People's Army Movement (the unified faction) has dismissed Dr Riak Mashar from the chairmanship of the group and given the post to Commander Karbino Kuanin [name as transliterated], who was deputy chairman, keeping William Nun [surname as transliterated] as chief of staff and giving him the deputy chairman's responsibilities. The military command also decided to keep the original name of the movement, which is the People's Movement and the Unified People's Army.

The military commanders have sent messages to the movement's political leaders, who are in Nairobi, to enlist their support for the military command's decision. Karbino Kuanin and William Nun have sent messages to Lam Akol, Jon Lok, and Arok Ton Arok [all three names as transliterated].

The military command of the Unified People's Army Movement had held a series of meetings for all areas under its control with the participation of all military field commands.

Professor David Dishand, member of the Higher Council of the South Sudanese Independence Movement led by Riak Mashar has said, in a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Nairobi: "We in the Sudanese Independence Movement pay no attention to such nonsense, because our attention is focused on important struggle issues at this critical stage in the history of our struggle for the independence of the south."

Majok Qondong, official spokesman of the South Sudanese Independent Movement in Britain, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "My comment on the news of the dismissal of the Dr. Riak Mashar by the military command of the People's Army Movement (the unified faction) is firstly that there is no such thing as the People's Movement, because that was dissolved last October. Those leaders who claim to have dismissed Dr. Mashar were members of the South Sudanese Independence Movement and were dismissed from that movement because of their links with the Sudanese regime of the National Islamic Front [NIF]."

He added: "The South Sudanese Independence Movement is a movement struggling for the independence of southern Sudan, and it has a clear policy regarding any member who deals with the NIF regime, providing for the dismissal of any such member."

Samuel Oudat, spokesman of the People's Army Movement (the unified faction), led by Dr. Lam Akol said that "the dismissal of Mashar from the movement's leadership is a natural development of events in southern Sudan as a result of the grave mistakes he committed throughout a long period, including the dismissal of Dr. Lam Akol which was rejected by the movement's ranks.

"Mashar, however, did not understand the implications of his dismissal of Dr. Akol, who was his main supporter and the dynamo of the movement's political and military activities." Oudat added: "Dr. Mashar tried to follow a dictatorial line which caused resentment in the movement's ranks. The best proof of that resentment is the fact that many of the movement's effective leaders have resigned from the movement."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saudi-Yemeni Border Talks Go On Until 'Progress is Made'

MM2202124095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Feb 95 p 4

[Report by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab: "Shaykh al-Ahmar Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Expect Some Development in Saudi-Yemeni Negotiations with 48 Hours"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, chairman of the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], and chieftain of the Hashid tribes, has expressed optimism regarding the Saudi-Yemeni negotiations on the settlement of their border dispute. He expected some development within the next 48 hours. Al-Ahmar reaffirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the Yemeni delegation will not leave Saudi Arabia before progress is made."

The two working teams met the night before last. Shaykh al-Ahmar, who heads the Yemeni delegation, had told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT before that meeting that "the two sides are drafting what has been agreed into a 'memorandum of understanding.' The points on which no agreement has been reached will be referred to the two countries' political leaderships."

Asked what was discussed in the day before yesterday's session, he replied that "the two working teams discussed what has been achieved as well as the remaining pending issues." He added that "two points remain before the negotiators. If no agreement is reached, the memorandum will be submitted to the political leaderships of both countries." He declined to say what these two points were, saying that "there is no need to explain them now. I will say what they are when they are completed."

Shaykh al-Ahmar emphasized that the negotiations would continue and would not stop. In reply to a question about rumors that they could be suspended until after 'Id al-Fitr. he said: "Work is worship. This work is to God's satisfaction and is in the interest of the two fraternal peoples. The holidays will begin in Saudi Arabia in two days from now, but the negotiations could continue until next Saturday."

He denied serious differences between the two working groups. He said that "there are no differences between the working teams, the two countries, or officials because there is goodwill on both sides."

Asked about the chances of a visit to Saudi Arabia by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, he replied: "That is still on and could take place at any moment, but it is up to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to set a date."

Bahrain

Prime Minister Discusses GCC Ties, Riots

JN2302093295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, has stressed the importance of cohesion and solidarity among the leaderships and peoples of the Arabian Gulf states.

His highness called for establishig strong cooperation among Gulf states that would enable them to overcome the negative situation they are facing. His highness said that during the latest Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit, Gulf leaders had identified and proposed solutions to their domestic problems, taking into consideration the demands of the region's peoples for better and urgent cooperation in order to improve performance whose tangible results will materialize on the ground.

In this regard, his highness referred to the memorandum King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, had referred to the Bahrain summit. He said this memorandum diagnosed the situation of the Gulf individual, who has been hopeful that his leaders would strengthen and accelerate the performance of the GCC, adopt a unified stand, solve their problems internally, and not allow the foreigner to penetrate their ranks and influence their performance and cooperation.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH that will be published on Thursday [23 February], his highness said: The memorandum submitted by King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, has put GCC leaders on new tracks. Therefore, the Manama summit was a distinguished one, especially since it was held in an atmosphere described as one marred by disunity. Some foreign parties were unwilling to have the summit held. Some tried to tamper with Bahrain's internal affairs.

His highness added: The image of the GCC following the Bahrain summit has become one that reflects the demands of people. When the GCC was established, people wanted it to emulate groupings in Western Europe or Asia that specified cooperation in terms of economic aspects or geographical proximity. However, after some time, conditions changed and people themselves started to launch initiatives and call for the GCC to be like similar groupings among other cooperating states.

In this respect, his highness called for emulating the type of union linking the European Union states. He said the level of cooperation among these countries has reached such an extent that they rush to each other's rescue, and when one country is affected by economic decisions of the union, other countries rush to support it. If any

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

country is in need of anything, other countries will back it economically and even militarily, if need be.

His highness said: Our peoples are currently experiencing certain conditions resulting from economic recession in the region and the world. We in Bahrain were affected by this recession. He asked: Why should there be no cooperation among us under which the negative repercussions are shared by all and not carried by only one side?

His highness proposed that each economically-strong state should back other states to help ease the negative repercussions. He called for working out an economic formula that would protect the GCC states from any international economic recession.

His highness stressed the need for coordination and cooperation among the GCC states in the security domain. He said: The GCC states should be linked together in security affairs so that we will not be brought together only in times of danger.

His highness referred to the invasion of Kuwait, and called for the establishment of a unified military and economic Gulf force to confront any military danger or contingent economic problems.

His Highness Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah welcomed Qatar's readiness to accept the mediation which Bahrain has always called for. He also welcomed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's announcement of its readiness to mediate in resolving the problem. He said that this readiness is in itself a kind of rapprochement which we seek and aspire for, and which we hope will provide the basis for tackling our internal affairs through cooperation and within a family framework. His highness expressed hope that this move would abrogate the need to tackle our problems at international forums.

Regarding the economic situation in Bahrain, his highness said: As a GCC member state, Bahrain hopes that cooperation will be similar to that among other groups of states; namely, that the Gulf economy should be cohesive and each state should help the other.

His highness noted: Bahrain was affected by the economic recession and unemployment in the world, in addition to the invasion and later liberation of Kuwait. It has encountered issues which took first priority although they are not development issues. His highness pointed to the recent riots, which gave security issues priority over other issues. He stressed that security is the tool of stability and the reason behind a prosperous economy.

His highness said he hoped the dreadful situation in Bahrain and the GCC states will end so that the economy of these states will become a development economy which promotes ties of cooperation, including security, military, and economic cooperation.

Regarding the recent incidents in Bahrain, his highness said: What happened in our small and peaceful country, which has special social characteristics, was that some incidents were instigated, as usual, by those who tried to harp on the sectarian issue, thinking that this would spread chaos in the country, confuse the political leadership, and create instability. However, these attempts ended with defeat and failure. In fact, this has strengthened the state and bolstered national accord and social cohesion. As a result, the people realized that the development of their country can only be achieved through stability and a calm internal front.

His highness said: What happened in Bahrain recently was extremism, which is strange to the sons of Bahrain and the customs of its people. What happened was extremism manipulated by foreign fingers. This was proved by the slogans which were raised, the leaflets which were distributed, the radio stations which dealt with this issue, and the news media which supported, backed, and spoke about the attempt to violate the special characteristics of the Bahraini society.

The Bahraini prime minister said rioters chose a critical time to destabilize the country. They acted at a time when the region was suffering from economic recession and when Bahrain was preparing to host the 15th GCC summit. Those quarters, which were not satisfied with the outcome of the summit, especially those decisions on the Gulf region, sought to prevent, obstruct, or foil the summit right from the beginning.

His highness stressed that the rioters admitted their aims as well as the aims of those who trained them on such acts as noted in the investigation file. He added that they wanted to turn Bahrain into a springboard for interference in the GCC states' affairs and sought to undermine their social stability and harm Bahrain's special position by spreading extremism which Bahrain has not previously witnessed or heard of.

His highness praised the Bahraini people's positions on these incidents and their rallying around their leadership. He said the Bahraini leadership contacted its people and discovered that they opposed what happened and considered it alien to the Bahraini people's behavior. He added that the Bahraini people called on the political leadership to play its role and expressed their dissatisfaction with what happened and their categorical rejection of attempts to sabotage their country. He indicated that the Bahraini people were faithful to their special relationship, which the hostile forces tried to penetrate.

His highness praised the efforts made by the Bahraini security bodies and the security men, who were up to the level of responsibility, noting that sedition and riots were stamped out in a civilized manner without resorting to methods used by other states in such cases.

He said that 300 were detained and that developments were dealt with according to the Bahraini traditions and in accordance with the requisites of social cohesion. Suspects were interrogated and those proven to be innocent were released immediately, he said.

The Bahraini prime minister said the rioters and their masters were a minority. They were a few hundred who

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

moved quickly from one village to another due to the small size of Bahrain. They thought that those who exported them could tip balances in their favor. He categorically denied that thousands were arrested and hundreds were killed. Such claims, he said, are media propaganda prompted by those who thought they had succeeded in their actions and who write in yellow papers in London about their delusions and not the truth.

His highness stressed that those standing behind that scheme had no demands. Following the emergence of signs of their failure, they made some demands which had no national legitimate channels. Most of their demands were mere opinions, not national opinions. As for the subject of unemployment, it is the preoccupation of the entire world.

He said Bahrain is not an oil-producing country and does not have the revenues available to other states, but it realizes that it is influenced by the economic performance of the GCC states and Gulf region. Nevertheless, he added, the political leadership does its best because it is aware of the requirements of its society and people. He said the leadership is making strenuous efforts to upgrade the performance of the Bahraini economy whether by ensuring stability that precedes prosperity, or by accomplishing the basic infrastructure projects and implementing priorities.

His highness voiced his appreciation for the GCC states, which expressed their readiness to extend aid. He said: I was pleased that Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif 'Abd-al-'Aziz was among us to tell the world that Bahrain's security is linked to Saudi Arabia's security. The same applies to what the Kuwaiti, Emirian, and Omani interior ministers said. His highness said these sisterly Gulf states linked their security with that of Bahrain. This, he said, tells the quarters which exported rioting that Bahrain is not alone. This is another victory we scored after triumphing over rioting and the aims it sought to achieve.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Leaves France for London

LD2202180695 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, leaves Paris today for London on the fifth leg of his European tour, which has so far included Italy, the Czech Republic, Germany, and France.

Official sources in Paris said that the visit of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to France has been an important step on the path of consolidating political dialogue between the two countries, and crystallizing a joint vision with regard to developments in the Gulf region.

Sources said that the issue of relations between Iraq and the UN was at the center of talks between Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and French officials. These sources indicate that France is calling for the strict implementation of all Security Council resolutions.

Oman

Qatari-Bahraini Efforts To Resolve Border Dispute Welcomed

JN2202133895 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed a joint declaration made by the State of Qatar and the State of Bahrain to resolve their border dispute by peaceful means. The following is the text of the official statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry today:

Out of the eagerness of the Sultanate of Oman to see understanding between brothers and for peace and stability to prevail in the region, the Sultanate of Oman welcomes the decision of the State of Qatar and the State of Bahrain to announce their mutual desire to resolve their border dispute by peaceful means and welcomes the good offices of the custodian of the two holy mosques in this context.

Saudi Arabia

'Arafat Arrives in Jeddah for Minor Pilgrimage

JN2202193795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia this evening. His excellency will perform minor pilgrimage in Mecca. President 'Arafat is expected to meet with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Fahd

LD2302010595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2328 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mecca, 22 Feb—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the servant of the two holy places, received this evening in his office in Safa Palace President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, and the accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Syria's al-Shar' Gives King Fahd Message

LD2302011195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mecca, 22 Feb—King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, servant of the two holy places, received a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. The message was conveyed to the Servant of the Two Holy Places by Mr. Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, when King Fahd received him in his office in Safa Palace this evening. [passage omitted]

Mr. Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Jeddah this evening. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Yemen

Prime Minister Reports on Saudi Border Talks

JN2202215095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1900 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yemen and Saudi Arabia have made progress at talks over a border dispute.

Yemen's Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani said some points of disagreement still need to be ironed out. He told a news conference in Sanaa that the two sides, if they fail to reach final agreement before the end of this month, would hold more talks after the 'Id al-Fitr in the first week of March.

Yemeni and Saudi delegates have been discussing for about a month now how to settle the 60-year-old border dispute. Both Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saudi King Fahd have said they wanted to see a peaceful solution to the row.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

UN's Rolf Ekeus Concludes Talks, Departs

JN2302090695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, has said that he will present an oral report to the UN Security Council on Monday and an official written report on 10 April.

In a statement to INA before departing Baghdad this morning, Ekeus added that his official written report will be important. I expect the Security Council to hold a special session to discuss it, he said.

Ekeus and his team arrived in Baghdad on Sunday on a visit to Iraq. He held two meetings with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and several meetings with Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, head of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO].

Ekeus said that his talks with the Iraqi officials, which lasted four days, were very good and that tangible progress was achieved. Iraqi technicians and members of the delegation accompanying Ekeus held technical talks at the MIO. During his visit to Iraq, Ekeus was also accompanied by a delegation comprising experts in various fields.

More on al-Samarra'i Letter to Ekeus

LD2202102695 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English 21 Feb 95

["Open letter" from General Wafiq al-Samarra'i in Salah al-Din to Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN's Iraq Disarmament Committee, in Baghdad—received by fax]

[FBIS Translated Text] In support of the information we have already provided, I would like once more to confirm the following.

1. Saddam Husayn still has long-range Scud R17 and Al-Husayn missiles and is holding on to them for use with weapons of mass destruction. Missiles have not been destroyed or broken down into component parts. The regime's claims about this are untrue. We are very concerned because we know that these weapons will be used some time against the Iraqi people and our neighbouring states. The only thing the Iraqi people have ever gotten when Saddam Husayn has a weapon in his hand is destruction.

2. The regime's lack of good faith is seen in the fact that over the last few years it has given you incomplete missiles and engine parts. When it has given you an entire missile it has been because circumstances were such that the regime had no other choice. Had it acted in good faith, it would have given you all the weapons back complete.

3. Its failure to acknowledge possession of biological weapons is a sign of bad faith.

4. Information about nuclear, biological and chemical weapons has already been hidden in the homes of government employees and private houses in Baghdad.

5. At this decisive moment, when the people are struggling to rid the country of the dictatorship, we hope that the dictator will not be able to deceive the world once more. I am sure it is very difficult to give Saddam a clean bill of health, saying that he does not possess any forbidden weapons, because the future will show the opposite to be true. We here will not leave history to judge, but will soon expose the dictator so that the truth comes out. I confirm what I told the inspectors last week: that Saddam is still hiding biological and chemical weapons and missiles.

6. It is essential for the security of the region that Saddam Husayn does not get access to funds. And it is the people's right that Saddam be obliged to export some oil and buy food and medicines for the iraqi people under UN supervision. With great appreciation, [signed] General Wafiq Al-Samarra'i Salah al-Din-Iraq, 21/2/95

Commission's Stand Called 'Shaky'

JN2302094395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0756 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has said that any position which takes into account the fact that the criminal siege of the Iraqi people no longer has any legal justifications will be appreciated by all good people in the world.

In an article today entitled "Iraq and the Special Commission; What Is Required," the paper asserts that Iraq's position on the Security Council and its compliance with the Council's resolutions are now clear to all world states, particularly Russia, China, and France, which are big powers and permanent member states of the Security Council.

AL-'IRAQ adds that Iraq's positive position is now receiving a positive response in that these big powers have stressed the need for the Security Council to take the necessary steps to lift or ease the unfair blockade now that Iraq has complied with all UN resolutions.

The paper explains that the truth which is now clear to the entire world is that the United States and those standing alongside it in its crime are deliberately concealing Iraq's positive positions and cooperation with all UN demands. They are also using the media which tell lies as well as Zionist propaganda in order to depict Iraq as the only country which violated international laws and resolutions.

AL-'IRAQ ridicules the U.S. way of thinking and schemes which ignored a basic and substantive fact; namely, that there are mutual legal commitments between the Security Council and Iraq. These commitments should be kept away from political purposes and hostile ideas which lack both fairness and truth.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Concluding, the paper says: Despite revealing the clear and open facts and positions which exposed the U.S. falsehoods, the positions of the UN Special Commission are shaky and fluctuating and do not conform to the wide steps taken by Iraq in terms of implementing the Security Council resolutions, particularly Article C of Resolution 687.

U.S. Daily's Call To Lift Oil Ban Praised

JN2302110295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the U.S. press acknowledgement that it is futile to wager on continuing the blockade against the Iraqi people is a frank confession that we have gone a long way toward victory.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, in its editorial the day before yesterday, asserted that the Clinton administration will not succeed forever in continuing the blockade imposed on Iraq. It also considered the position of the Clinton administration and that of Britain as wrong, and demanded that Iraq be allowed to export oil.

In a comment today, AL-THAWRAH says these are very significant signs, with more than one dimension. It adds: This call represents frank criticism of the U.S. Administration's policy which has failed to manage the crisis. It also represents a frank call to review accounts and assess the results in a way that conforms to facts on the ground. Moreover, it represents a rational and realistic sign of what is looming on the horizon and is about to be crystallized.

The paper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, asserts that THE NEW YORK TIMES call expresses the views of many U.S. key economic figures, who are trying to rid themselves of the pressures which influence U.S. decisionmaking. This call also indicates clear grumbling by U.S. companies, especially since companies from many countries have visited Baghdad to negotiate and conclude trade deals, contracts, and agreements, the most recent of which were British companies.

AL-'IRAQ asserts that the development of international positions toward the blockade is now depriving the Kuwaiti and Saudi rulers of sleep, thus prompting these rulers to rush to world capitals to bribe and spoil people, and submissively beg here and there to perpetuate the blockade. These rulers even bribed the UN inspection teams in order to fabricate reports complete with cheap lies. This was recently confirmed by the U.S. newspaper COLLEGIAN [name as transliterated].

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Today, the world cannot turn a blind eye indefinitely to the glaring facts, led by the fact that the unfair blockade has turned into a long dirty game which has inflicted much harm on the interests of many world states, in addition to its effect on the Iraqis, who have learned how to resist and confront the blockade through patience and steadfastness.

Citizens Consuming Half Normal Food Requirements

JN2202112995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—A study conducted by nutritionists at the Ministry of Trade has revealed that since the imposition of the siege and until now, the Iraqi citizen has been consuming a quantity of food estimated at half the needs of the ordinary individual.

The study notes that before the siege, Iraq formerly spent $3 billion on food imports, at a rate of $250 million monthly.

The study adds that the nutritional statistics and figures indicate that the ration card that is used for distributing food provides only 64.2 grams of protein per individual against the required 118.4 grams.

It notes that market food prices have soared sharply, compared with the low prices in the past, attributing this to the halt in Iraqi oil exports and freezing of Iraqi assets at foreign banks.

Blockade Blamed for High Child Death Rate

JN2002184595 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 11 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The death rate at the Saddam Central Hospital for Children in Baghdad rose in 1994 to three times the death rate among children throughout Iraq in 1989. Speaking to an Iraqi News Agency correspondent, the director of the hospital said that the unfair blockade on the Iraqi people has led to a rise in deaths and other serious diseases among children due to acute shortages of medicine, malnutrition, the polluted environment from sewage leakages in the streets during the U.S.-Zionist military aggression against Iraq, and a lack of suitable drinking water.

The director explained that among the hardships facing the medical staff at the hospital are a lack of antibiotics which are given intravenously; medicines for epilepsy; tracheal asthma; and all types of cancers, injections for children, and blood transfusion equipment for acute cases of jaundice among children. The director pointed out that the average number of operations which are carried out at the hospital have reached 74 major and serious operations and 22 routine operations, including genetic deformities among the newborn such as the absence of openings in male organs, which require special anesthetics as well as special equipment and staff. Specialists in this field are facing great hardships due to the lack of local alternatives to cover the hospital's needs.

Saddam Central Hospital for Children began offering its medical treatment services to children in 1986. It consists of 400 beds. Its services have dropped by 50 percent due to the circumstances of the unfair blockade.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Qatari Ship Arrives With Sugar Donations at Umm Qasr

JN1902182295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, southern Iraq, 19 Feb (INA)—The Qatari ship "al-Zarqa" cast anchor at the Umm Qasr Port in al-Basrah Governorate this morning. The ship was laden with 2,500 tonnes of sugar donated to the mujahid Iraqi people by the fraternal Qatari people.

A correspondent from the Iraqi News Agency said that the port workers began to unload the ship once it cast anchor at the port to transport its cargo to the warehouses of the Ministry of Trade.

It is to be recalled that the ship "al-Zarqa" is the first Arabian Gulf ship and the second Arab commercial ship, after the Sudanese ship "Niyala," which arrived in al-Basrah on 2 May 1994, to cast anchor at an Iraqi port since the enforcement of the unfair Iraq sanctions.

Country To Print Abroad Due to Paper Scarcity

JN2002181695 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 10 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cultural Affairs House in the Ministry of Culture and Information has begun concluding agreements and contracts with certain Arab publishing houses in order to publish Iraqi books in Arab capitals. A spokesman for the Cultural Affairs House has told an Iraqi News Agency correspondent that these agreements and contracts fall within the house's endeavor to beat the cultural blockade that has been imposed on our great people. He said that Iraqi creative and intellectual works will be published abroad, since the blockade has clearly affected the printing of such works at home due to the scarcity of paper and printing materials. He pointed out that the house has recently signed the first agreement in this regard with an Algerian publishing house.

Ministry Meets 'Increasing' Demand for Butane

JN1702161695 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 11 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Aghadir Mahdi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Oil Ministry's State Enterprise for Oil Products Distribution facility has exerted extra efforts over the past days, working day and night to meet the increasing and unusual demand for butane gas resulting from the increasing number of household appliances. The enterprise has provided distribution centers with extra supplies of butane gas and dispatched gas-laden trucks to densely populated areas to sell the gas directly to people for 10 dinars per cylinder.

Over the past two days, AL-QADISIYAH has observed that gas distribution centers are no longer packed with people thanks to the efforts to supply gas and meet the real needs of people. It should be mentioned that people opted to obtain gas through direct sale in gas distribution centers at a price of 5 dinars rather than obtain it from vendors who boosted the price of gas cylinders according to their desires. Prices reached 100 dinars per cylinder, sometimes even more, depending on the nature of the area and the living standard there.

To learn about the measures the ministry has taken, AL-QADISIYAH interviewed 'Abd-al-Bari Mahmud Shawkat, director general of the enterprise. He said: There is no shortage of any oil products. The ministry does not intend to ration any products, not now or in the future. On the contrary, there has been an increase in our production, especially in the production of butane gas to meet the increasing demand for household appliances, including the gas ovens to which housewives resorted in the aftermath of the blockade to prepare the family's main food—bread. [passage omitted]

'Unfair' Embargo Blamed for 2,971 Deaths in Karbala

JN1702214995 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 6 Feb 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of deaths in Karbala' Governorate resulting from the unfair blockade on our steadfast people reached 2,971 in 1994.

A responsible source in the governorate's Health Department said the deaths included 498 cases from both sexes below the age of one, 204 cases from both cases between the ages of one and four, and 2,269 cases above the age of five. The deaths, which included women, elders, and youths, were due to the acute shortage of medicine and food as a result of the continuation of the unfair blockade on our steadfast people.

Power To Be Cut Off If Grids Vandalized

JN1702172395 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Feb 95 p 4

[Report By Rahman al-Juwari]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid, adviser at the Presidential Office, has met with the personnel of the Central Region's Grids Directorate at the State Enterprise for Power Generation. Discussions dealt with ways to provide constant repair and maintenance service to grids in a way that ensures the flow of electricity throughout the year.

'Abd-al-Majid recommended relying on the abilities of technicians at the installations affiliated with the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and also available workshops in order to find local substitutes for materials used to maintain the grids.

He added: Recently, it was noted that nonconductors, towers, and other parts of some grids have been vandalized by some irresponsible people. He said this is especially true for nonconductors, which are deliberately

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

damaged. Therefore, he said, the ministry will cut off the electrical supply to areas in which such disgraceful acts occur.

He recommended adopting and applying these measures in cooperation with responsible quarters in the governorates. He also called for the opening of grids maintenance centers in all the country's provincial capitals.

The adviser also unveiled a wall portrait of leader President Saddam Husayn decorating the facade of the directorate to the cheers of the employees.

Foreign Ministry Reaffirms Release of Iran POW's

JN2202131695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—Commenting on the statement made by Brigadier General Mohamed Baqir dhu al-Qidr [name as transliterated], chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard, on 18 February in which he said that the search will continue for dead and missing Iranians after the discovery recently of the bodies of more than 3,000 dead Iranians, an official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry made the following statement to the Iraqi News Agency:

Iraq has emphasized more than once that it has released all Iranian prisoners and returned them to Iran under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross in implementation of its commitments stipulated in the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 on protecting POW's.

The statement by the Iranian official about the discovery of the dead Iranians proves beyond a doubt that what Iraq had said was right, and proves the falsity of Iranian officials' previous allegations on Iranian prisoners detained in Iraq. Such allegations are an attempt by the Iranian regime to conceal from the Iranian peoples facts about the number of Iranians killed during the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry urges the Iranian regime to stop exploiting humanitarian issues to realize political objectives, respect the law of man and international laws, especially the Third Geneva Convention concerning POW's, and the rules of the tolerant Islamic shari'a. This requires the release of thousands of Iraqi POW's detained in Iran, and returning them to Iraq.

Commander Claims Coalition Air Cover in Iranian Raid

JN2202122395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Feb 95 p 24

["Exclusive" report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad—Iraq has accused the coalition aircraft of providing air support for the Iranian (9 Badr) Forces which led the armed attack on the Iraqi units in the Hawr al-Hawizah area, south of Baghdad, on the night of 11 February.

A senior Iraqi commander told AL-DUSTUR that at a time when the attacking forces—which consisted of regular troops, guard forces, and intelligence teams, in addition to groups from the Iraqis who were deported to Iran, called al-Tawwabun—were launching a wide attack on a 30-km-long front, coalition aircraft were overflying the area, and were easily visible.

Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, assistant Iraqi Army chief of staff for operations affairs, who signed the cease- fire agreement with the coalition forces in the second Gulf war on 28 February 1991, added that "coordination between the two parties is clear." He told AL-DUSTUR that the size of the attacking force, the nature of the forces entrusted with the attack, and the type of weapons used indicate Iran's involvement in this operation. He described the attack as a premeditated aggression on Iraq, aimed to occupy part of the Hawr al-Hawizah area and use it as a springboard for acts of sabotage against nearby towns and important targets. [passage omitted]

Asked about Iraqi opposition claims that it planned and carried out the attack, Staff Lt. Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad said the units that took part in the attack were regular troops and Revolution Guard forces, which undoubtedly include saboteurs. However, he added, the nature and size of the attack as well as the adopted [Iranian] strategy reveal that these Iranian troops were trained and entrusted with this attack which is the first of its kind since the cease-fire reached in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

Iranian 'Counterrevolutionaries' Killed in Baghdad

LD1802174095 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 18 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Feb. 18, IRNA—Iraqi opposition groups shot dead three Iranian counterrevolutionaries based in Baghdad early last month, a source close to Iraqi opposition groups told here Saturday [18 February].

The three counterrevolutionaries including two women were killed when a car in which they were travelling were attacked in Karkh in central Baghdad on January 4.

The news of the attack was released recently because the assailants had gone into hiding soon after the attack and cut off their contacts with the outside world to prevent the arrest of a colleague wounded during the offensive.

Karkh region houses government offices and trade centers and for this reasons it is always heavily guarded by the Iraqi police force.

Iraqi opposition groups want the terrorist counterrevolutionaries stationed in that country to be expelled from Iraq.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq-based counterrevolutionaries played a key role in suppressing an Iraqi popular uprising against the Baghdad regime in January 1991.

Last September the Iraqi defence minister, by handing over decrees to leaders of counterrevolutionary groups, formally employed the terrorists in the Baathist army as mercenaries.

Iraq-based counterrevolutionaries have threatened to retaliate any attack on them.

On November 22 1994, counterrevolutionary elements sprayed machine-gun fire on a taxi in Baghdad, killing three of its passengers in a reprisal for the slaying of some colleagues.

Paper Views Public Opposition to Iranian Leadership

JN1702134495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Feb 95 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "This Is What the Ayatollahs Have Reaped"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Press reports are unanimous that Iran is in turmoil and that public protests and strikes are escalating and exacerbating day after day. These protests and strikes, the reports said, are not confined to the cities but have also extended to the villages. Meanwhile, the ayatollahs' regime seems completely unable to control the situation and to impose its authority on the Iranians who reject its policy and practices.

We will not be revealing anything new when we say that the deteriorating situation in Iran is the result of 16 years of rule by the ayatollahs; 16 years of fumbling, chaos, and repression at home and attempts at domination, aggression, and expansion abroad. The problem with this regime is that it cannot reform itself or change its ruling policy and methods. It has remained impervious to reform and development. It also does not deal with the root causes of the social, economic, and political crises which are surrounding it and increasing pressure on it, but with their results only. Thus, it cannot in the face of such problems but resort to repression, coercion, cheating, deception, and diverting public attention to foreign issues.

The situation in Iran has deteriorated to such an extent that in a press statement to FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU before his death, Mahdi Bazarkan said: If I am asked to assume power, I would say: No, I cannot. This was not all that Bazarkan had said to the paper. He also revealed that the ayatollahs' regime does not control more than five percent of the public base and that it is opposed even by ministers, state officials, and men of religion.

In addition to the disturbances and crises which have swept the Iranian regime, reports from inside Iran confirm that divisions among the ayatollas are exhausting and dismantling the regime. The regime's religious guide, Khamene'i, has admitted his failure to establish a religious authority despite the large-scale political propaganda campaign by the regime to entrench him as the traditional authority. On the other hand, Rafsanjani is solely concerned about amending the Constitution so that he could nominate himself for a third presidential term. As for Shura Council speaker Ali Akbar Natiq Nuri, he keeps telling Iranians that it is inconceivable to amend the Constitution for the sake of one individual!

The real paradox is that, while it is faced with all this public resentment and surrounded by all these crises, headed by the crisis over the religious authority, the Iranian regime cannot find anything else to do but tell old lies in an exposed attempt to preoccupy the Iranians and divert their attention to foreign issues. Here it is once again lying to itself, the Iranian people, and the world at large by talking about the existence of 15,000 Iranian POW's in Iraq. Yet, it knows more than anyone else that there is not a single Iranian POW in Iraq and that it is Iran which is still detaining more than 18,000 Iraqi POW's who are registered with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The ayatollas are reaping these days what they have been cultivating for 16 years. No doubt, whoever sows the wind, reaps the storm.

Religious Figures Cable Talabani, Barzani To End Fighting

NC1902164595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 54 mosque preachers, prayer leaders, and religious figures in the governorates of Karkuk, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Irbil, have sent a cable to Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general; Mas'ud Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]; and to the PUK and KDP political bureaus. In their cable they emphasize that they will take a firm stance against any side that insists on continuing the fighting. They stress the need to respect the peaceful plans submitted by the Parliament of Kurdistan to end the fighting, particularly the clauses outlined in the 25 July peace plan, which has been ratified by the parliament.

Daily Outlines 'Miserable' Conditions Facing Kurds

JN1702200995 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 7 Feb 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Kurdish citizens arriving from the Governorate of Irbil claim that citizens there have staged demonstrations demanding the return of the central authority to the region. They added that the agent gangs of Mas'ud Barzani have mounted a siege around the city of Irbil, where the agent gangs of Jalal Talabani are located, preventing anyone from getting out. They also said that the city is the target of heavy shelling from

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

artillery and mortar fire and that gun duels between the two agent gangs have resulted in the death of hundreds of citizens and the destruction of many houses and stores.

Due to their domination of the northern part of the homeland, the warring agent gangs continue to terrorize the citizens, seizing all food and medical aid reaching the region. This has left poor, helpless families in a miserable state of poverty, hunger, need, and disease. So, they have begun selling their personal possessions to buy food.

A reliable source in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region said Kurds in the village of Sayyid Khalil in the District of Klar, al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, having heard reports and stories in the area that Jews bury their dead with their jewelry and precious belongings, have begun digging Jewish graves in the village and extracting golden ornaments. Teachers arriving from Irbil Governorate have confirmed that agent Jalal Talabani has stopped paying the wages of teachers and civil servants for the past three months, which prompted these people to sell their electrical appliances in order to support their livelihood.

KDP Charged With 'Indiscriminately' Shelling Rawanduz

NC2102172795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The capitulationist [Kurdistan Democratic] Party [KDP] forces yesterday and the day before indiscriminately pounded the town of Rawanduz, using rocket launchers, missiles, artillery, and mortar fire. This caused heavy damage to civilian homes. The Rawanduz hospital was hit by several rockets, causing heavy damage to its buildings. One civilian, age 25, was martyred during the bestial bombardment and seven others sustained various injuries.

PUK Claims KDP Shelling Kills 6 in Kurdistan

NC2002213795 Paris AFP in English 1946 GMT 20 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Feb 20 (AFP)—One person was killed and six were injured as forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) shelled a town in northern Iraq, the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) reported Monday [20 February].

Muhammad Isma'il said the town of Rawanduz had come under heavy shelling since late Sunday. A woman died and six other people were injured, the PUK representative in Europe said, contacted by telephone.

Eight KDP fighters were killed on Saturday in fighting for a village near Irbil, the main town in Iraqi Kurdistan, according to Isma'il. He said the PUK's condition for a withdrawal from Irbil was for the KDP to hand over tax revenues to the Kurdish authorities in control of northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since 1991.

The PUK, which seized Irbil in December, and the KDP have been locked in a deadly power struggle since last May.

Kurds Urged To Stage 'Massive' Uprising in North

JN2102083295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 21 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)—AL-'IRAQ newspaper has called on the sons of our Kurdish people in Kurdistan to stage a massive popular uprising to expel the occupiers and purge the region of agents. The paper asks the Kurdish people to return to the national fold and live in the Iraq of unity, safety, and stability.

In an article today by Fadil 'Ali Hasan, member of the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, the paper says: The agent forces that are hostile to our Kurdish people have managed to infiltrate Kurdistan, with the support of U.S. imperialism and Zionism. These forces seek to destroy the cultural, social, and health institutions built by the sons of Iraqi Kurdistan over the past years of the autonomous rule.

The paper notes the emergence of other conspiratorial links as part of the fighting, the displacement of the masses of our Kurdish people, and the looting of their money as a result of the bloody conflict between the two factions that are fighting for their personal interests. The paper also notes the spread of the fighting to many areas of Kurdistan, saying that the masses are the victims of this fighting.

The paper asks the sons of our Kurdish people to pursue the long and honorable path of their struggle in their national alliance in accordance with the 11 March Declaration and the Autonomy Law. This law guarantees the national rights of our Kurdish people. The Kurdish people can end the state of fighting and the abnormal situation in Kurdistan, expel foreigners, and purge our beloved north of agents, the paper says.

Doors 'Wide Open' To Demonstrate Loyalty to Kurdistan

JN1802115795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 18 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ stresses that the doors are still wide open for anyone who wishes to demonstrate his loyalty to the homeland and the people and to work, in a spirit of faith and sincerity, for the sake of the Kurdish people and their legitimate aspirations.

In an article published today, the paper says: The recurring bloody events and the deteriorating conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the infighting among the agent cliques that hide under the canopy of the United States, which seeks to fuel such conflicts through its evil means,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

serve the foreigner and his evil intentions. These cliques alleged yesterday that they are concerned for the Kurdish people, who have begun to realize the truth about the false masks that cover their dark faces.

The paper notes that the painful conditions, from which the Kurdish people are suffering as a result of the hegemony imposed by the agent cliques, are known to everyone since the imperialist forces brought their agents to Iraqi Kurdistan. The paper adds that the Kurdish people are now able to take advantage of the Council of Ministers' initiative which was announced after its session on 13 January and return to the homeland.

***Editorial on Opening of French Interest Section**

95LH0076A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Jan 95 pp 1, 2

[Article by Salah Mukhtar in Viewpoint Column: "With French Decision to Open Interest Section, Iraq's Problem Becomes Global Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one was surprised by the positive step France took by opening an interest section in Baghdad, because this was a natural and anticipated step, in the context of positive regional and international changes and developments. But the French step caused surprise and feelings of repugnance in America and Britain; Washington and London did not wait long before issuing convulsive (according to international news agencies) statements. Washington described the French move as "premature," not serving the objectives of the Western alliance; London said that "this is not the appropriate moment for the relaxing of pressure on Iraq."

Washington's logic in criticizing the French position seems very strange—to anyone who does not know America's view of France and its role. It is essential that a major power such as France, being an independent entity, have the right to adopt its own policies in light of general and precise calculations, including coordination with its allies, especially America. This is what actually has happened. For France has coordinated daily with the American administration, and still does; the problem, in this regard, is not lack of coordination, but lack of agreement.

After about four years of harmony and commonality in the French and American positions on Iraq, France became convinced, based on proof and evidence, that Iraq's compliance with and implementation of UN resolutions required the Western alliance to review its stand on Iraq, and respond to Iraq's positive positions with a positive step on the part of the UN. In addition, France did not hide its conviction that the implementation of the UN resolutions is not a duty affecting Iraq alone; the Security Council itself must observe its commitments in line with its own resolutions.

France has explained this to America many times and in many ways, but the American response has always been not only to ignore the fact that France is a major global power, but to insult it deliberately with shameless attacks on its officials, as happened during the crossing crisis, when Ms. Madeleine Albright, the US ambassador to the UN, attacked the French ministers of defense and foreign affairs, describing their statements as "silly"!

The French position rests on two pillars—one legal, implementation of the UN resolutions; and one self-interested, France's resumption of its severed relations with Iraq. Iraq's satisfaction of its basic legal commitments cleared the way for the resumption of French-Iraqi relations, albeit with certain limitations.

America's position, also resting on two pillars, is different. There is the strategic pillar—America's plan to colonize the world through the colonization of the oil region, which requires first of all the colonization of Iraq; and self-interest, to realize economic gains in the region.

Thus America does not want Iraq to implement the UN resolutions; it does not want them implemented, because implementation of the resolutions by Iraq will pull the rug out from under America's strategic pillar, depriving America of its primary ambition: its exclusive seizure of the oil region. Their view is that implementation would lead to the immediate lifting of the economic sanctions, then the normalization of conditions in the Arabian Gulf in the context of Iraqi sovereignty, rather than American imperialist hegemony.

The essence of the American-French dispute over Iraq lies in the French reading of the Security Council resolutions, which is a wholly legal reading, with systematic bases and gauges. The Americans' is a vague political reading, devoid of bases or boundaries, except for America's own strategic plans, so it cannot be in harmony with the legal essence of the Security Council's resolutions on Iraq.

In the context of this dispute, France has adopted the view that the implementation of paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 paves the way for partially lifting the sanctions on Iraq. The decision to recognize Kuwait strengthened that and made it necessary to take a practical step to support Iraq's cooperative position. That view is the same as in Russia, which is more enthusiastic than France, and also enjoy's China's support.

The French step, in this context, is not a leap into the void, nor is it a total surprise. It is a careful, calculated, and mature step. So America's reaction seems strange if we suppose that American thinking is legally oriented or even rational. The fact is, however, that America has fallen under the influence of a strange logic foreign to all sound logic, seeing only what it wants to see and believing only what it wants to.

So America rejects France's decision to open an interests section in Baghdad, forgetting, in a strange and pathological way, that *ithas an interests section in Baghdad! America speaks openly of its objectives in the Arabian*

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Gulf and Iraq, and says it is "protecting American interests." It rejects France's natural step to regain interests it had, whether in Iraq or elsewhere, before the 30-nation aggression.

Does only America have the right to open an interests section in Iraq, a right France lacks? Does only America have the right to defend what it supposes to be its "vital interests," and to launch bloody wars for the sake of those vital interests, while its officials vilify France openly and accuse it of acting in its own private interest?

America includes Russia in its accusation of acting in its own private interest. For when Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev visited Baghdad to settle the crisis America had stirred up—and he succeeded in doing so—American sources said that Russia was looking after its own private interests, while America was seeking to build paradises for the orphans of Rwanda, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Iraq, and areas of Asia and Russia in which there were mass killings as the result of America's imperialist and population policies!

American arrogance reaches the point of stupidity, for it puts pressure on France and Britain and other allies to stop these countries' companies from visiting Iraq and seeking out opportunities for cooperation after the lifting of the sanctions. At the same time, representatives of U.S. companies come to Iraq with the same objectives as the European companies.

This irrational behavior, which goes against sound logic, reveals a disgusting mixture of double standards and intellectual backwardness, as America intentionally insults other peoples (especially those more civilized than the Americans, such as the French), shows insolence toward them, and deprives them of their natural rights.

While officials in America reach the point of losing all sound and rational logic, and surrender to the lowest forms of primitive, bestial tendencies in their international behavior, they only confirm the fact that America is facing devastating failure in the world after the collapse of its great dream—the establishment of an imperialist new world order called the "new world order." This is the result of profound and significant global and regional changes, most importantly Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the American AIDS onslaught, Russia's liberationist rebirth, the beginning of movement toward independence in Japan and Europe, and the prominence of structural flaws in America's capitalist system, which has brought it to the stage of senility and inability even to pursue its dream of colonizing the world.

President Bill Clinton and his aides have lost their senses, because they understand that their failure to maintain the blockade on Iraq will be the bullet that puts the Democrat Party out of its misery in the 1996 elections, and will also confirm the error of the fundamentals of their plans and calculations in this region and the world. The French position, especially, is the final step, giving America clear proof of the fact that the sanctions must be lifted, if only because the Security Council resolutions demand it.

Had the pressure of the French position on America been the only thing, America would have been able to withstand and contain it. But the problem America faces is that there are positions even more hardline than France's, such as Russia's, in addition to the fact that America has become a minority in the United Nations. If it wants to ignore all this forever, then it will definitely clash more and more, not only with the restrictions of international law, with which it began its war against Iraq, but with the interests of small, medium, and super powers, throughout the globe.

What really bothers America is that the "Iraq problem" is no longer an Iraqi problem. It has acquired objective conditions that make it into a regional problem, with the sanctions taking a heavy toll on other countries in the region, especially Turkey and Jordan. And it is an international problem, with the sanctions on Iraq causing serious harm to Russia, France, China, and other countries. Thus every month that passes with the sanctions in place will contribute to regional and global resentment of America. The Clinton administration understands this, and so behaves in a way foreign to all logic and reasonableness.

America is wandering blindly, and the Clinton administration has now lost even the sole clear position it had in its foreign policy, as American Professor Gregory Goss [name as transliterated] has said, which is the position on Iraq. The introduction of new factors with the Russian and French positions, and the strengthening of the old Chinese position, caused America to lose its control over the development of events in the region and opened the way for the influence of other global powers, with clear and legitimate Iraqi encouragement, throwing off America's balance of action and logic.

America's stumbling, as its shallow modern history demonstrates, has always been the natural preface to sudden upsets in its foreign policy. Go back to the Korean War in the 1950s, or to America's obscene aggression in Vietnam, and you will find that the ugly—and lethal—America has turned into a monkey ready to show its buttocks to an audience to make it laugh in exchange for a banana. If America continues its current stupid policy, it will be in danger of losing the most important banana of all—oil. Will the American monkey accept that, as it looks at the world? Or will it return to Iraq in preparation for Iraq's return to the world in the biggest wedding party the world has ever seen?

I personally say that the American monkey will lose every banana buried in the Arab desert, as long as it insists on annihilating the delight of all Arabs and Muslims—the children of Iraq.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

*Russia's Importance, Role Analyzed, Emphasized

95LH0070A Baghdad AL-JUMHIRIYAH in Arabic 1 Jan 95 p 6

[Article by Qays Muhammad Nuri: "Russia and the Second Half of the Nineties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In spite of that enormous fragmentation that resulted from the end of the Soviet state at an illusory moment in history that seemed as if it were a final victory for capitalism (the end of history as the Americans depicted it)...in spite of that, the certain truth is that Russia has continued to be, as it has been in its long history, one of the biggest European countries in area and number of inhabitants. It is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council and remains one of the two nuclear powers in the world. It is distinguished by the advanced state of the military industries it inherited from the Soviet Union.

All these elements secure it a special standing in the international order in spite of the deterioration of that standing as a result of the Soviet absence from the international arena and the disrepair that has afflicted state organs and caused economic weakness, an outcome of the change over from the planned Eastern economies to an attempt at market economy reform.

The major dynamic powers of the world, Russia included, realize that the remaining five years of this century are but a small margin of time. It has to be exploited quickly, in decisive and large steps, in preparation for the onset of the next century, which will no doubt witness a bitter struggle focusing in its most important aspects on the struggle for the vital resources of the world. Those are the resources that form the backbone of the confrontation between the East, that has remained true to itself, and the West, that insists on imposing its values and concepts, employing them to overwhelm the eastern part of the world.

By taking stock of its position, Russia has come to understand that it has suffered an erosion of its international position in favor of the United States, and the West generally, in the four years since the beginning of the nineties. Internally, it has likewise encountered many dangers that threaten its internal structure, especially in geographical regions that are directly linked to national Russian economic resources and capabilities. These dangers manifest themselves through the expression by some of its regions of an intent to secede, and through the outbreak of civil wars within and around Russia.

All of this has prodded the Russians to rush to reorganize and to stabilize the Russian house on the basis of speedily implemented concepts with the purpose of regaining internal control, in order to reshape the external situation to conform with its wish to assume an international role as a great power that will not accept the shaping of international affairs without it or contrary to its vital interests—especially in nearby areas that impact Russian national security. Bearing all this in mind, what are the future challenges that face Russia in the most important arenas of international confrontation, primarily the Arab region?

Perhaps the most dangerous of these challenges are the feverish American attempts to control the region according to the provisos of American strategy. The Russians understand that if this strategy is successful, the door will be closed that would allow Russia to lay the groundwork for a probable, clearly significant, Russian role connected with oil revenues in an important region. During the next few decades, oil will become one of the most important Russian imports. Moreover, to close the region as a monopoly for the Americans will turn it into one of the danger spots near the southern borders of Russia, negatively impacting all aspects of Russian security. Consequently, the old Russian geographical nightmare will return, adding the new element, the splintering republics that have broken away from Russia and that are being subjected to American-Israeli attempts at penetration. This is in addition to infiltrating them and establishing relations with them that will often be at the expense of the Russians and against them.

The second challenge facing the Russians in the Arab region is the U.S. attempt to form a security-economic-political structure in the region that leans toward Israeli leadership. This order is to be called the Middle Eastern Order. It is an order that also aims at obliterating national Arab identity and replacing the national unity of the Arabs with a hybrid order. Israel would assume the leadership role in order to ensure American control of the land and revenues. The Russians, in addition to Europe and Japan, would become one of the long-range targets of that policy.

The United States is attempting to consolidate this strategic dimension, which is harmful to Russia, in stages, and through nominally involving Russia in some of the region's affairs. At the same time, they (the Americans) are attempting to prevent Russia from offering what it is able to contribute to the Arab states and what it is able to realize for itself through cooperation with the Arab homeland by intensifying the tempo of travel by Israeli officials to Russia and by obtaining pledges from the Russians that they would not supply arms to those Arab countries that constitute a danger to Israeli expansionist programs.

Likewise, within the provisos of the tactics that serve and flow into those intentions comes Russia's inclusion as a participant in formulating security measures (for the Middle East) so that it will abide by whatever restrictions the Atlantic states propose and regulate arms acquisition in the Arab homeland and some of the neighboring countries.

In light of that, what opportunities are there available that would restore international equilibrium to Russia and that would be in harmony with its international role? There is no doubt that finding the main approaches that would lead to the crystallization of that role cannot hope to be effective, unless it directs itself to the sensitive focal points that have strategic dimensions connected to the essence of the problems of the struggle which in today's world are linked to energy sources. It is specifically here that some of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

countries of the area come to the fore with the advantage favoring Iraq as the strongest and most important of the components. This is because of the geo-strategic importance of Iraq as a country that has tremendous natural wealth. The Russians understand, as others do, the growth in Iraqi reserves, according to experts, making it the first country in the world in oil reserves. These facts which constitute extremely important assumptions cannot be ignored in long-range foreign policy planning, especially for a great power like Russia.

Via this rationalization, we understand the nature of the recent Russian diplomatic initiative toward Iraq, which has crystallized a new diplomatic language that differs greatly from the logic of the past four years. Whatever new positions the Europeans have taken based on it or influenced by it, they were in their turn, informed that the real dispute cannot gain strength and influential effectiveness that is capable of guaranteeing future interests unless it directs its energy to the remaining authentic consolidated elements of power: Iraq.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

AL-HAYAH Interviews Peres on Security, Peace

JN2102190695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
19 Feb 95 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] The current impression is that Israel is hampering peace. For example, Israel is not facilitating the mission of Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, and is also placing obstacles before him. Why is this?

[Peres] This situation is similar to that of the day after a wedding, when facts are to be faced. You are talking about the Palestinian viewpoint. The Israelis view matters in a different way. They have given up territory and authority but are still suffering from terrorism and the Arab boycott. The Israelis ask: What have we gained? We have given much. And yet, killing is going on, hatred is going on, and opinion polls show that 50 percent of the West Bank inhabitants support terrorism. What have we gained? The Palestinian people are now responsible for the education of their sons. This did not happen under the Turkish, British, Egyptian, Jordanian, and Israeli rule. For the first time, all educational affairs have come into the hands of the Palestinians. They are responsible for 1 million people. They have a geographic entity and a police force of approximately 10,000 policemen. We also have kept our doors open for Palestinian workers, some of whom have brought knives and killed Israelis. So, this is not an easy story, but we hope it will succeed and we also hope that 'Arafat will succeed. We want to help him but there is a limit to such help.

[Correspondent] But you do not help him achieve the peace you are seeing with the Palestinian people. You have partially lifted the security siege of Gaza. Why partially? Large numbers of Palestinians, including extremists, are criticizing this peace.

[Peres] Terrorism continued after we lifted the security siege. This is 'Arafat's responsibility. The people who are carrying out terrorist operations come from Gaza. We said to 'Arafat: We are not asking you to be responsible for Israel's security and for Tel Aviv's security. We want you to be responsible for security in Gaza. However, we do not expect complete success from you. We want you to do what every government does when it faces terrorism. He should stop those who carry out terrorist actions. He has to prevent that and to prevent terrorists from using Gaza and Jericho as their haven. Suicide-seeking terrorists killed 21 Israelis. Gazans danced joyfully over the killing of the Israelis. How then do you want Israel to react? We said to them: We have given Gaza back to you, and we are trying to help you. So, why are you dancing? It is true there are violent actions against Palestinians. We will not allow the killers to move freely in our country. We tried and detained them and did not allow demonstrations. This is what we want from 'Arafat.

[Correspondent] Matters are still being hampered. After 'Arafat met with the Israeli prime minister, the security siege was lifted from Gaza partially. Why this partial solution?

[Peres] This is not a partial solution but a gradual one. We are trying to tell 'Arafat that we are working and that he should do the same. If he does what he can, we will react in a different way. We said we do not expect a miracle from him and we will not ask him to do what he cannot. We are not pushing him into the corner, we are trying to help him. I admit there are difficulties but I am sure we will overcome them.

[Correspondent] What is the importance of giving Janin back without a Palestinian police force and without an Israeli withdrawal from it?

[Peres] This was my proposal. We proposed to set up five industrial zones along the border line. Instead of crossing the border, the workers can go to a Palestinian zone. This will spare many problems. The Palestinians have asked us for an early transfer of powers. We have handed them the educational, health, social affairs, tourist, and taxation sectors. They then asked for the municipal and economic affairs. So, we proposed to test them in Janin. This came in response to Palestinians' demands. They want to take over the security responsibility in Janin. We said we have to reach an agreement on security arrangements to convince our people. We insist on security. Now, we are holding talks on redeployment. In these talks, we are focusing not only on Palestinian wishes, but also on the Israelis' security, which is our minimum demand.

[Correspondent] Anyone who visits Israel realizes that peace is still far away, and that the situation of the Palestinians is very bad. This peace has no credibility in the Arab world.

[Peres] I am not sure that the majority in the Arab world wants peace. The Arab contribution to peace is very little. They told us: Recognize the PLO and we will recognize Israel. We recognized the PLO, but they did not recognize Israel. They told us: Implement the agreement and we will end the Arab boycott. So, we did, but they did not. It is not a story to be viewed from one angle. On another level, there are a million Arab citizens in Israel, and relations between us are excellent and almost all of them have jobs. Schools are also full and there is no hatred or violence. Perhaps this society is the most democratic society in the Arab world. There are elected mayors, and the current problem is a problem of relations, not a problem of borders. What we need is to change relations. However, this should take place through bilateral efforts.

[Correspondent] Will the Palestinian elections and the Israeli forces' redeployment take place soon?

[Peres] If we are talking about months, we will say yes, because this will not take years.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Correspondent] Egypt was the only state that normalized relations with you, and now we see a deterioration in relations as a result of your rigid stand toward the signing of the nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty?

[Peres] In the past, when Egypt and Israel had differences, these differences were settled through war. However, when we have differences these days, we talk, and so, this is different from the past. Moreover, Israel did not adopt a stand differing from its stand at Camp David. Our Egyptian friends say that Dimona is very close to Egypt. The distance between Egypt and Dimona has not changed since Camp David. However, our Egyptian friends ignore that there are three states that clearly call for the destruction of Israel. Iran is one of these states. We ask ourselves, why should we go to the Iranians to tell them: If you want to attack us, go ahead. We say that if Iran fears anything we possess, it fears our deterrent force. We did not change anything in the balanced Camp David Accord.

[Correspondent] But there is a joint stand which will be adopted by the Arab states toward the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. So, why should the Arab states sign the treaty when you refuse to sign it, especially since they are also threatened?

[Peres] We did not ask anyone to sign, and we are not impressed by this signing, because Iraq and North Korea have signed it. But, what after this? If there is a certain state which does not respect laws, then the pen will not be an alternative.

[Correspondent] So, the treaty is meaningless?

[Peres] It will be meaningful when we have peace.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that your security is guaranteed under the current situation?

[Peres] More than before. We have stopped border infiltration, and we told the Lebanese authorities that if they can send the Lebanese Army to the south and prove, for six months, that they can guarantee Israel's security, then we will withdraw without any claims regarding the Lebanese territories. We do not want a single drop of water from Lebanese rivers. Neither do we want to play any role in Lebanese politics. I repeat and say that our main concern is Israel's security, and if Lebanon has an army that can achieve this objective, then why not? If the Lebanese Army is deployed in southern Lebanon and proves that it is ready to disarm Hizballah, then we will withdraw, as we said.

[Correspondent] How far are we from peace on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Peres] The answer to this question should come from Syria. We are very close, but we do not know about the Syrians.

[Correspondent] President al-Asad told the European Troika that he has the impression that the Israeli Knesset has not decided on full withdrawal from the Golan?

[Peres] President al-Asad might not have the same problems we are facing. Compared with us in Israel, it is easy for President al-Asad to make a decision, but negotiations have their own logic. President al-Asad wants us to accept his declared stand before the negotiations. This is something we will not do and did not do in the past. We do not want al-Asad to change his declared stand. He comes with whatever he wants and we come with whatever we want. We said from the beginning that we are ready to withdraw.

[Correspondent] Full withdrawal?

[Peres] We only said withdrawal, we neither said full nor incomplete withdrawal. This depends on other issues, such as security arrangements and the nature of peace. So far, we have signed three peace agreements and I do not want Syria to judge us from the newspapers they read. They must judge us through our record of peace and withdrawals with the Palestinians, Jordan, and Egypt.

[Correspondent] During the meeting between General Ehud Baraq and Major General Hikmat al-Shihabi, it seemed that Baraq made a proposal on general security arrangements. Meanwhile, Syria wants accurate details and answers in terms of equality in these arrangements.

[Peres] This is what the Syrians say, however, we can say the contrary. If the Syrians want peace we should negotiate on a high level. In the negotiations, there are always two stands and the success in the negotiations requires a third stand that stems from the negotiators. Success also requires the holding of the meetings on the highest levels so as to produce this third stand. Yesterday, myself and Prime Minister Rabin met with 'Arafat. I do not know why there is a problem with such a meeting. Al-Asad says if we do not agree there will be a disaster. Why did he say this? If we disagree once we will meet again and this is not a disaster.

[Correspondent] The hampered Palestinian-Israeli track strengthens President al-Asad's view not to hurry in achieving unsatisfactory peace.

[Peres] Why do you say the Palestinian-Israeli track is unsuccessful? It was impossible for the Palestinians to have a geographical address throughout their history, and this has now been achieved. They did not have an authority, and now they have such an authority. In their history, they did not have anything similar to a passport, and now they have achieved this. Why are you saying that peace is unsuccessful? Gaza is in new hands and a new situation. It was not in the hands of the Palestinians, it was in the hands of the Egyptians and Israelis. Now, it is in the hands of the Palestinians. Why are you describing this as a failure? There are problems, but we are trying to solve them. Contrary to what the Syrians are saying, the Palestinians consider this a real change.

[Correspondent] Do you want to say that President al-Asad has opted for peace?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Peres] He is a president who waged war and I can say that he has abandoned the option of war. He divorced war but he has not married peace. He is in the middle of the road, he is a bachelor.

Peres on NPT Talks in Cairo, Christopher Efforts

TA2302091195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Uri Paz "prior to his departure for Egypt for a meeting with President Husni Mubarak"; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Paz] You are on your way to Cairo. We read in the papers today about an exchange between you and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa concerning the nuclear issue in which Musa said to you: We want to visit Dimona, and you replied: If you come to Dimona, you will realize that you have nothing to fear about there.

[Peres] As usual, the quote is incorrect. Musa asked: Do you object to my visiting Dimona? I replied: That is very dangerous. He asked me: Why? I answered: What happens if you visit Dimona and find out that there is nothing there? You will have immediately spoiled our deterrent power. I was joking, of course.

[Paz] Perhaps on a more serious note: Will this visit to Cairo yield a mutually acceptable formula on the nuclear issue? Could the visit culminate in a joint communique with Mubarak?

[Peres] I will know that at the end of the visit. I cannot say before my trip.

[Paz] But you are going to Cairo after numerous discussions on the issue in recent weeks. The feeling is that your visit is designed to formulate the final formula.

[Peres] There is no guarantee of that.

[Paz] From what you have heard from the Egyptians, does Israel's proposal....

[Peres, interrupting] I do not deal with speculation. Look, I never announce before negotiations what the outcome will be, what one person or another will say. We will go there, talk, and see what happens, but I will not make any commitments or speculation.

[Paz] The proposal to consider signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] two years after peace agreements have been attained in the Middle East, including Iran, Libya, and Iraq—is this Israel's final proposal?

[Peres] I regret all those reports. I do not know who publishes them, but whoever does is definitely an irresponsible person. I have no intention of commenting on any of those reported proposals.

[Paz] An irresponsible person in Jerusalem's political corridors?

[Peres] I do not know where. If I knew, perhaps I would tell you.

[Paz] If that is not the proposal, then what are you going to propose in Cairo?

[Peres] I will make the proposal to the Egyptians before I divulge it on the radio.

[Paz] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due here soon. The Americans are pessimistic and talk about a deadlock. Is there a chance that Christopher's upcoming shuttle mission in the region will thaw the atmosphere and promote the issue?

[Peres] With Syria?

[Paz] Also with Syria.

[Peres] At the moment, there are no signs that the Syrians are prepared to do the minimum necessary, that is, to sit around the negotiating table with each side's retaining its opening positions.

[Paz] If that is the situation, perhaps it is better for Christopher not to come here.

[Peres] He should try. Why not? On the contrary, given the situation, it is better to thaw than to cool the atmosphere.

[Paz] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Peres, Mubarak Fail To Reach Agreement on NPT

TA2302131395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Egypt did not manage to reach an agreement on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has decided to return home without conferring with President Mubarak a second time.

Minister Peres said that agreement was achieved on some points, but that the sides remain divided on others. It was therefore agreed to continue negotiations in the future.

In response to a question by our correspondent Arye Gus, Minister Peres said that the differences of opinion will not influence the continuation of the peace process.

Sources Express 'Shock' Over FRG's Iran Move

TA2302120995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Feb 95 p 7

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, the German Government announced it is lifting all the restrictions that have so far been imposed on German companies' trade with Iran. The German Government will now grant state guarantees of billions of German marks to firms selling goods to Iran. The German step was received with anger and shock in Jerusalem.

High-level political sources are accusing Germany of a cynical exploitation of Israel's distress regarding captive navigator Ron Arad. The sources believe that the Germans leaked the story on the secret contacts with Iran regarding Arad as part of their campaign to prepare international public opinion for the publication of their decision to lift restrictions on trade with Iran. "This is cynical conduct. They launched a trial balloon at Israel's expense only to later justify a move that was sure to meet international criticism, mainly from the United States," the sources said.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ordered that the following statement be released in the wake of the German move: "Israel calls on all the countries to avoid granting any type of aid to Iran for as long as it calls for the destruction of Israel."

The Israeli reaction was drafted after long consultations. On the one hand, Israel wants to make the Germans see the graveness with which this development is being received; on the other hand, Israel does not want to create a crisis with the friendliest country of the EU members. Fear was expressed in Jerusalem that other European countries will now follow the Germans and thrown the dying Iranian economy a "life preserver," as Israel calls it. Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir yesterday met the 15 EU ambassadors in Israel and warned that the countries that encourage and support Iran would be held responsible for anything Iran might do in our region.

As soon as the German press reported the mediation efforts by Chancellor Kohl's bureau last weekend, Israel became concerned about the intention behind the leak, made by government officials in Bonn. Prime Minister Rabin denied the report according to which the German mediators have managed to obtain signs of life from Arad. Rabin said that no tape or picture of Arad has been received since he was captured in Lebanon in 1986. In fact, the Germans were unable to produce any evidence that would make his fate clear.

The fear in Jerusalem that the so-called revelations regarding Arad are merely a cover-up has now strengthened. It is believed to have been a cynical trick played as part of a preplanned move that was fully revealed yesterday when the German Government decided to allow the German Government fund Hermes to grant state guarantees to any German firm trading with Iran.

Concern Expressed Over Libya, Egypt Joining UNSC

TA2102121095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 95 p 12

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] are trying to prevent Libya from joining it and would like Egypt to take its place instead.

Jerusalem shares objections about Libya, but in view of the crisis in relations with Egypt Israeli officials are also worried about the implications of Egypt becoming a member of the Security Council.

The U.S., British, and French ambassadors recently conferred with Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's UN ambassador, and told him that they object to Libya joining the Security Council. Libya is slated to be the next representative of North Africa in the UNSC according to a predetermined rotation. Nevertheless, the Western ambassadors proposed that Egypt replace Libya and that Libya's integration in the UNSC "be postponed until after the year 2000."

Israel fears that Egypt might use the Security Council as a platform to promote its campaign against Israel over the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

Foreign Ministry management convened to discuss the crisis in relations with Egypt. One of the arguments made in the meeting was that Egypt launched the campaign against Israel's nuclear capability due to its apprehension over Jerusalem's growing status in the Middle East and is seeking "to restore Israel to its natural dimensions."

David Afeq, head of the Political Research Center, indirectly criticized Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres saying that Israelis who talk about a new Middle East or about Israel joining the Arab League increase Egyptian anxieties over an Israeli attempt to "dominate" the region. Afeq cautioned that Israel should take special care in its relations with Egypt. According to him, when developing ties with the Persian Gulf states one must ultimately bear in mind that countries such as Qatar and Oman "barely amount to two alleys in Cairo."

It was learned from Peres' bureau last night that no date has yet been set for a visit to Cairo.

Foreign Ministry sources have pointed out that Israel stands by its offer to enable mutual visits of experts to nuclear facilities. Israel intended the visit to be of the nuclear reactor at Nahal Soreq, but Egypt said it would agree only if its experts were allowed to visit Dimona. Israel turned down the proposal.

[A report by Gid'on Alon, Aluf Ben, and news agencies on page A3 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 21

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

February adds that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin "disagrees" with Peres over the assessment that Iran will have nuclear weapons within three years. Speaking at a meeting of the Labor Knesset faction, Rabin said: "Unlike Peres, I think that more years will pass before Iran has a nuclear capability." The prime minister added that he considers radical Islam "a problem more acute than Syria or even nuclear weapons."]

Rabin Moves To Stop Golan Bill, Remarks on Closure

TA2002170295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Labor Party Knesset caucus has forbidden five maverick members to introduce their controversial Golan Heights bill. At a meeting this afternoon, the caucus voted to impose the whip, which means the five must toe the party line or face disciplinary action. The vote was 28 to 5. Nevertheless, Avigdor Qahalani, the author of the bill, says he will submit it. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] Avigdor Qahalani's bill proposes that the Knesset should not approve a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights unless 70 Knesset members [MK's] or 65 percent of the voters in a referendum vote in favor of it. Prime Minister Rabin said today in the present Knesset there are not 70 members prepared to vote in favor of a total withdrawal. As for the referendum, Rabin says half the voters plus one is a democratic majority and a plebiscite. Qahalani says the Labor Party promised not to withdraw from the entire Golan and it is he who is upholding the party platform. He says he will submit his bill in spite of the party's efforts to stop him, and if necessary, he will petition the High Court of Justice. At today's caucus meeting, he asked for another week for the issue to be discussed, but Rabin insisted on taking a vote.

In a sense, it was a storm in a teacup. Privately, most parties in the Knesset agree that Qahalani's bill cannot get a majority. Even most of his supporters in the caucus, the so-called Golan lobby, say quite openly that they will accept today's verdict of the caucus.

So why did the prime minister insist on taking the vote? Why is the caucus using procedural tactics in an attempt to stop Qahalani from introducing his bill? Apparently, it will be a major embarrassment to the Labor Party and the government if the bill were submitted. After all, Qahalani is a war hero. He is a retired general who fought on the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War. It will be very embarrassing if he were to defy the government's policy on such a central issue as the peace negotiations with Syria. And this is why the Labor caucus is using every device at its disposal to stop Qahalani. However, legal experts say if Qahalani is determined, he cannot be stopped. And if he petitions the High Court of Justice to force the Knesset Presidium to table his bill, he will probably win an injunction. So, the controversy over Qahalani's bill will continue for some time, although it is almost certain to fail in the end. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he has turned down a request from Yasir 'Arafat to increase the number of work permits of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, Jericho, and the territories. Speaking this afternoon to the Labor party Knesset caucus, the prime minister repeated that he could continue with a total closure which would increase the personal security of Israelis in the short term, but this would create what he called a terrible crisis in the autonomy areas which would, in the long term, cause great damage to Israel.

No-Confidence Motion Filed Over Closure Lifting

TA2202152695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] and Tzomet have presented a motion of no confidence in the government over the prime minister's statement that he lifted the closure in the territories against Israeli security interests.

Earlier this week the Likud presented a motion on the same issue. The motions of no confidence are to be debated next Monday in the Knesset plenum.

Netanyahu Notes Objections to 'Janin First' Proposal

TA2102170495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 21 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu met this afternoon with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the premier's office in the Knesset. The meeting took place at the initiative of the opposition leader. The two men discussed security issues. After the meeting, Netanyahu told reported David Ze'ev he is calling on Rabin to drop the proposal made to Yasir 'Arafat of "Janin First":

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] If the government is thinking of replicating another Gaza in the north of Israel, in Janin, we would have a terrorist sanctuary in the south, in Gaza, and a terrorist sanctuary in the north, in Janin, thereby heading Israelis off from two sides and thereby not only having a tripling or quadrupling of terror that we have today but perhaps even a quintupling or worse. I think this would be a terrible mistake.

We should realize that the Gaza experiment has failed. We should not replicate it in Judaea and Samaria in the West Bank. We should ensure that there, Israel and Israel alone is responsible for security. We do not take out our army, and we do not bring the terrorist PLO army in.

[Ze'ev] From the government's perspective, it is trying to provide security for Israelis, while at the same time walking this tightrope of also advancing the peace process with the Palestinian Authority.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Netanyahu] Well, it is not walking the tightrope. It has already decided on which side of the tightrope it is going to fall. It decided, according to the prime minister, to sacrifice the security of Israeli citizens for the sake of a paper deal with the PLO. That is as much as what Mr. Rabin said. He said: I am torn between the issues of security and the issues of the treaty and, knowingly, I am taking risks with the security of Israelis for the sake of the treaty. I think that is an astounding statement for a defense minister of the State of Israel and for a prime minister of the State of Israel. [end recording]

Peres Defends 'Janin First' Idea in Knesset Debate

TA2302125295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Feb 95 p A7

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zrahya]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Knesset yesterday, the opposition sharply attacked the government for its intention to implement the autonomy in Janin as well.

Speaking in the discussion of eight motions on the agenda regarding the "Janin first" issue, Likud Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Landau charged the government with allowing the establishment of a small Islamic base in Gaza that inflicts many victims on Israel. "Today you come with a new tune, 'Janin first,'and what will the result be? It will be a giant base of Islamic terror throughout Judaea and Samaria."

Landau reminded the Knesset that when Likud was in power, less Israelis were killed in terror attacks, citing the following numbers of civilian fatalities: in 1988—16; in 1989—34; in 1990—22; in 1991—24; and in 1992—26. "Since you came to power, and mainly since the Oslo agreement was signed, there has been a significant rise in the number of fatalities. Last year alone, 67 Israelis were killed, and 60 over the past six month," he said. [passage omitted]

Answering the motions on behalf of the government, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres fiercely defended the government policy and repelled the opposition attacks. "Regardless of the demands we are making of Yasir 'Arafat, we cannot make him exclusively responsible for terrorism—not him, and certainly not the Oslo agreement. There was plenty of terror even before. MK Landau must have forgotten the fallen of the war of Lebanon and the intifadah. One cannot create a new situation based on only short-term memory and bluff," the foreign minister said. [passage omitted]

"I hereby determine that there was plenty of terror activity during the Likud term. We came out of Lebanon, thank God, and now the people are grateful for leaving Gaza. Therefore, the Oslo agreement was the right and the courageous thing to do."

The foreign minister stressed that Israel has a commitment to implement autonomy in Judaea and Samaria and will not budge from it. "Our idea is political separation and economic cooperation. Even if we are separated politically, we are still in charge of the security of all the inhabitants—their existential and economic security. We want to reduce the number of Arab laborers from the territories in Israel. This is why we suggested that five industrial parks be built along the border between us, along the dividing line in Judaea and Samaria, and another three along the Gaza Strip borderline," Peres said.

Coalition representatives attending the discussion defended the government policy. Labor MK Hagay Merom congratulated the government for its decision to expand the Palestinian administrative autonomy to include Janin. At the same time, Merom said that he believes Israel should go for "Hebron first" to show that the government is determined to move on with the process even in places inhabited by Jews as well. "Those who object to the 'Janin first' idea should know that 'Janin first' means 'all of Judaea and Samaria later.' The powers of the Palestinian administrative autonomy are about to expand soon to the territories of Judaea and Samaria."

Meretz MK No'omi Hazan said that the "Janin first" plan is no alternative to the continued political process. She said that elections and redeployment in the territories should be held as soon as possible.

Security Units To Guard Public Transportation

TA2102054695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar has adopted the recommendations of a committee he set up to examine security measures on buses. Special security units composed of both IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and volunteers will protect the passengers using public transport and those waiting at bus stops. The move will be financed by a special budget allocated by the Treasury.

IDF Analysts: Lebanese Army 'Actively' Helping Hizballah

TA2102125295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 95 p A4

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to briefings delivered by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] analysts to government sources, the Lebanese Army, under orders from Syrian elements, has been actively helping Hizballah with arms supplies and by directing fire at the IDF and the South Lebanese Army. On numerous occasions in recent months, the Lebanese Army directed antiaircraft fire at IDF troops during Israel Air Force raids.

Major General 'Amiram Levin, commander of the Northern Command, said this week that "the Lebanese Army is cooperating with Hizballah, including by firing

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

at the IDF." According to him, the Northern Command will know how to confront the problem. Gen. Levin told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee who toured the northern border two days ago that Hizballah can be tackled by military means. [passage omitted]

Gen. Levin: IDF To Fight Hizballah 'Guerrilla Warfare'

TA2002102695 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 95 p 3

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We must clearly define the type of war in south Lebanon. We must realize that we are fighting against a political organization with a military arm that conducts guerrilla warfare, not terrorism. We must stop treating Hizballah like a terror organization, and start fighting it the way a modern army fights guerrillas." These remarks were made yesterday by Major General 'Amiram Levin, commander of the Northern Command, to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee who toured south Lebanon.

The committee members toured the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon during fire exchanges in the sector. They visited Marj 'Uyun and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] post. Shortly after they left, Marj 'Uyun came under an artillery barrage by the Hizballah terrorists.

During their tour, the Knesset members met with senior IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] officers. They were briefed by the Northern Command commander and other senior officers, and met with the SLA commander, General Antoine Lahd, who told them that the SLA today is stronger than ever. According to him, one of his battalions is encountering some problems resulting from the number of fatalities it has suffered.

Gen. Levin said that recently there has been an escalation in Hizballah activity after the organization seized control of several villages north of the security zone, bolstering its hold and deployment in those villages.

According to him, "our goal is to win every battle and inflict as many casualties as possible on the terrorists. Hizballah are sensitive to human losses. They must understand that they will suffer fatalities in every operation they launch. We must make sure that our side suffers as few casualties as possible."

Gen. Levin told the committee members that over the past several months, the IDF has stepped up its operations, aiming to shift the burden over to the terrorists.

Officers Assess Syrian Reluctance To Confront Hizballah

TA2002143595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Feb 95

[Report by unidentified correspondent in north Ilan Ro'e]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Northern Command intelligence officers told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee who toured south Lebanon yesterday that, according to their assessment, the Syrians do not want to get involved in a confrontation with Hizballah so that the latter does not direct its struggle against them after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from the area once peace is attained. [passage omitted]

This assessment is based on the premise that while Hizballah members are no big lovers of Israel, their hatred of foreigners is greater than their hostility toward us. [passage omitted]

The Syrians currently serve as a conduit for the transfer of weapons and ammunition from Iran and, at this point, they have no desire to cease playing this role.

Joint Patrols To Take Over IDF Duties in West Bank Towns

TA2102121795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Plans are under way to expand joint Border Police-Palestinian Police patrols to Judaea and Samaria, Border Police Commander Yitzhaq Aharonovitz revealed yesterday.

The joint patrols already operating in Gaza are a "great success," and with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria will begin there too, he said.

"There have been many instances of disputes between Jews and Arabs, which were only brought under control because of the presence of joint patrols," Aharonovitz said.

He was speaking at a press conference at the Border Police base at Bet Horon.

Aharonovitz revealed that Border Police has already taken on many responsibilities of the IDF in Janin, Nabulus and Hebron.

It will soon take over in Bethlehem and Tulkarm, he said.

IDF brass agree Border Police units are better trained for and have more experience in dealing with unrest than IDF units, according to Aharonovitz.

The Border Police is also to be given the bulk of the responsibility for carrying out the separation plan now being finalized by the army, police, and General Security Service, Aharonovitz said.

The ranks of the Border Police are likely to be expanded to give it the manpower necessary to carry out these new responsibilities, he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Investigation Under Way of Settler-Police Patrols

TA2002140295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir said he sees a problem in the cooperation between the police and the settlers in the Jericho region. Commander Elik Ron, commander of the Judaea and Samaria District Police, told IDF Radio that Ben-Ya'ir has begun to review the matter. This follows a report on IDF Radio this morning according to which the police have been operating joint patrols with settlers in the Jericho area over the past two weeks. These patrols consist of a policeman and an armed settler in an unmarked car with civilian plates. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin Yokhpaz recording] Political sources today leveled sharp criticism against the unconventional security patrols that settlers from the Megilot Local Council have been conducting recently. For the first time, the police have permitted the settlers to conduct security patrols together with a uniformed policeman in a patrol car. This morning, IDF Radio revealed that joint patrols are being organized by the local council, which is adjacent to the Palestinian autonomy in Jericho.

Elik Ron, commander of the Judaea and Samaria District Police, told IDF Radio that in the wake of the report, Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir has started to study the legal ramifications of the joint patrols. [passage omitted]

Commander Ron said he sees nothing wrong with the cooperation between the police and the settlers. On the other hand, Labor Knesset Member [MK] Ra'anan Kohen promised to raise the issue for urgent debate in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, the joint police and settler patrols will continue in the Jericho area. Police Minister Moshe Shahal has so far refrained from commenting on the matter. [end recording]

Police Present Proposals To Increase Jerusalem Security

TA2002142295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Feb 95 p A3

[Report by Re'uven Shapira and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of the comprehensive separation plan that is currently being formulated, the Israel Police are proposing to enforce separation inside Jerusalem by reinforcing the police presence and upgrading its equipment rather than by establishing physical separation lines. The police assert that this will permit policemen to act more intensively inside Jerusalem's municipal boundaries.

A meeting was held at police headquarters yesterday with the participation of Police Minister Moshe Shahal and senior police officers, including Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz and Jerusalem District Commander Arye Amit, as well as IDF [Israel Defense Forces] representatives.

At the meeting, there was a discussion of the police proposals on ways to increase security in Jerusalem and its environs. The central assumption was that Jerusalem is a different kettle of fish than the territories. Therefore, no borders or physical separation lines should be set up; however, at the same time, security should be increased by bolstering police forces throughout the city. This will require another 1,000 policemen and border policemen at least for routine security purposes.

The participants at the meeting noted that anyone can enter Jerusalem quite easily today, without any supervision. They stressed that the layout of Jerusalem's neighborhoods precludes the demarcation of a clear separation line or the possibility of hermetically sealing the city.

The plan nevertheless calls for a separation line along the municipal boundaries of metropolitan Jerusalem. This line will be similar to those planned for all areas abutting Israel's borders with the West Bank. This separation line will be protected by Israel Police, Border Police, and perhaps even IDF units, who will patrol its perimeters and use sophisticated electronic monitoring devices. Various roadblocks will prevent unsupervised passage between the West Bank and sovereign Israel.

At the same time, police forces will be beefed up inside Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. These forces will closely guard sensitive locations, streets, and buildings. Both stationary and mobile roadblocks will be set up, the police will patrol central Jerusalem, and special units will be employed, including undercover teams who will deal with a range of intelligence activities.

According to the plan, the police and the Border Police will conduct checks and surprise searches in Jerusalem. Among other things, the Jerusalem Police is considering the possibility of using a helicopter, trained patrol dogs, and small vehicles that can easily drive through narrow alleys.

Police officials say this would enable their forces to spot trouble as it began and immediately intervene in any incident, as well as supervise the flow of traffic and movement of pedestrians in the city.

Several other proposals were made at the meeting, including building a road between Bethlehem and Ramallah, which would facilitate Palestinian movement between the various parts of the West Bank without going through Jerusalem. Shahal ordered the police and IDF representatives to prepare by tomorrow a comprehensive plan on increasing security in Jerusalem.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Cooperation With West Against Islamic 'Terrorism' Increases

TA2202144695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Feb 95 p 5

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past few months, there has been an increase in cooperation between Western and Israeli intelligence services in the fight against radical Islam.

Western intelligence services have recently sent delegations to Israel. These delegations included the heads of departments engaged in the war against Islamic terrorism.

Europe is becoming increasingly aware of the threat posed by Islamic terrorism. Members of the Muslim Brotherhood have set up secret cells in many parts of Western Europe. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad have also established cells throughout Europe, mainly in Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Belgium.

YI'UD Said Breaking Up as Party, Knesset Faction

TA2102120995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] is breaking up as a party and as a Knesset faction after its secretary-general Hemi Doron resigned in a huff yesterday.

Doron's move was preceded by the resignation of the party's director-general Dror Stern.

YI'UD, a Tzomet splinter, formally commands three Knesset seats: those of Energy Minister Gonen Segev, Deputy Housing Minister Alex Goldfarb and MK [Knesset Member] Ester Salmovitz.

Salmovitz refused to enter the coalition with Segev and Goldfarb, creating the first split in YI'UD. This was followed by squabbles between Segev and Goldfarb over the party funds. As things stand in YI'UD now, no one is talking to anyone.

YI'UD was formally formed as a separate party last year when it broke away from Tzomet, but never got off the ground politically. Its main office in Tel Aviv was shut down and the few employees were sacked. Contracts with suppliers were hurriedly terminated. The party has no offices now, apart from private bureaus of the three MKs in their home towns.

Doron, a Rishon Leziyyon city councilman, cites as his reason for quitting his YI'UD post "the ugly and ludicrous situation in the party." He intimated that he places the blame for the final breakdown on Goldfarb.

Segev is now expected to join Labor and try his luck for a realistic slot on the next slate of Labor Knesset candidates. He will join Labor by announcing a "merger" of YI'UD and Labor.

Goldfarb was putting out feelers for rejoining Tzomet but was summarily rejected by party leader Refa'el Eytan, who declared that he will not so much as meet with him.

Salmovitz is also interested in returning to Tzomet but because she did not join her two colleagues in entering the coalition she is considered a single MK and under recently-adopted Knesset rules cannot cross party lines and is thus trapped inside the collapsing YI'UD framework.

New Ambassadorial Appointments Announced

TA2102132695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As expected, Prof. Shim'on Shamir, director of Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Center of Peace Research, was named ambassador to Jordan last night.

Tzvi Elpeleg, an analyst specializing in Palestinian affairs at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies, was named to Ankara. Shamir—who served in the past as ambassador to Egypt—and Elpeleg were the two political appointees among the seven ambassadorial appointments made.

The others named were: Yehuda Milo, deputy director-general for European Affairs, to Rome; Gabi Padon, head of the Foreign Ministry's interreligious department, to Bern; Yosi Gal, deputy director-general for information, to The Hague; Moshe Melamed, No. 2 official at the New York consulate, to Mexico; and Yosi Hasin, who worked in the Latin American department, to Caracas. With the two academic appointments, there are now four academics who have been named to diplomatic posts as political appointees, including Prof. Itamar Rabinovich in Washington and 'Aliza Shenhar in Russia.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Interior Minister Meets With Party Leaders

JN2002124195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Feb 95 pp 1, 28

[Report by Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A comprehensive and frank dialogue, lasting for two and a a half hours, was held among the secretaries general and leaders of the 23 licensed Jordanian parties—all the parties registered with the Ministry of Interior—, Minister of Justice Hisham al-Tall, and Interior Minister Salamah Hammad at the Interior Ministry yesterday.

The meeting's agenda contained five topics related to the proposed administrative division regulations, the new draft elections law, party budgets, the abrupt decrease in the number of members of some parties, and the violations committed by some parties such as publishing unlicensed pamphlets and holding contacts with foreign sides.

At the outset of the meeting, the Interior Minister gave a detailed account of the proposed administrative division regulations, which aim to curb centralization and facilitate the provision of administrative services to citizens throughout the kingdom.

Regarding the new election law, Hammad said that he has agreed with the minister of justice on the draft law which will be referred to the Council of Ministers. He noted that the draft did not include the number of members in the House of Representatives nor of constituencies. He noted that this will be discussed by the Council of Ministers.

Concerning party budgets, Hammad told party leaders that many parties have not thus far provided the ministry with the 1994 budgets. It was agreed, during the meeting, to grant the parties a grace period until 15 March to submit budgets for 1994 and for the first quarter of 1995.

A legal discussion took place, with the participation of the minister of justice, concerning the fall in the number of members of some parties to below 50, given that the law stipulates that to be licensed, 50 founding members should sign the party's statute. However, there is nothing in the law concerning the drop in the number of members to less than 50. The minister of justice gave the legal opinion that the prerequisite for licensing a party should be adhered to throughout. Therefore, according to the law, the party that loses the 50-member quorum becomes dissolved. He added that this requires a law suit to judge the case or it should be referred to the Council for the Interpretation of Laws.

Some attendees raised the issue of the visit made by some Jordanian parties to Syria at the invitation of the Progressive National Front. Also discussed were the press statements attributed to or announced in the presence of these party leaders—statements that could harm the Jordanian ruling system and state. A number of secretaries general of these parties stressed that there had not been any talk whatsoever that could harm Jordan and that these reports were only meant to distort matters. They denied that there had been any talk or statement in their presence that could harm any official or unofficial Jordanian figure.

Attendees agreed that it was necessary to abide by the text of the parties' law and that the law should govern all practices and positions. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, Islamic Action Front Executive Bureau member, thanked the interior minister for this meeting. He said: We believe this is a civilized and democratic gesture and we want to encourage the Interior Ministry to proceed on the democratic course. It goes without saying that this is a democratic initiative.

He said: The meeting was positive and many divergent issues pertaining to the parties were discussed. The meeting was a fraternal one, and the dialogue was very frank and explicit. I believe this is a step in the right direction to develop real pluralism and have all sides agree on national, pan-Arab, and Islamic constants with respect to issues having to do with Arab and Islamic issues.

'Azmi al-Khawaja, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, said: We thank the interior minister for this meeting because it shed light on many issues which had caused some kind of confusion concerning the delegation's visit to Syria. There was a prepared agenda of the topics to be discussed between the minister and the secretaries general of the parties. These topics dealt with the administrative divisions in the kingdom, the elections law, and the visit by a delegation from the opposition to Syria.

He said: At this meeting, we held in-depth discussions and we managed, through cooperation and democratic dialogue, to discuss all issues in a responsible manner and to end the confusion arising from the delegation's visit to Syria. He said: On the elections law issue, we explained our viewpoint on the present elections law and what points should be tackled by the law that the Interior Ministry is preparing prior to referring it to the House of Representatives. We also discussed some remarks on the administrative divisions currently under discussion concerning the governorates and districts. There was understanding on all issues discussed. We felt that we were one team discussing basic issues of importance to the homeland, to our cause, and to our parties. These meetings are fruitful for the enhancement of party pluralism and for eliminating any confusion that may result.

The meeting was attended by Hisham al-Tall, justice minister; Tal'at al-Nawayisah, Amman Governor; Faysal al-Khasawinah, director of the interior ministry's political party affairs department; and ranking Interior Ministry employees.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Further on Meeting

JN2102115895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A tussle between the government and eight opposition groups, which sent a joint delegation on a controversial visit to Syria last month, appeared to have been settled after the minister of interior met with representatives of the 23 registered political parties. During the meeting it was agreed that the law governing political organisations in the country should be fully respected by everybody.

Spokesmen for the opposition groups which were in the team that visited Syria said they explained to the minister that during the visit they only repeated their declared position, which is opposed to the peace treaty with Israel, but did not attack Jordan while making the visit.

"The minister accepted our explanation and we believe "the hatchet is now buried," said Ya'qub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party.

The Minister was not available for comment on Monday, but he had indicated in a statement after the Sunday meeting that the government would not pursue the issue.

"We have clarified our stand at the Ministry of Interior that we will take the appropriate legal steps if violations occurred in the future," Salamah Hammad was quoted as saying by al-Dustur daily.

Eleven members of eight political parties were represented in the delegation that visited Damascus in late January upon the invitation of the central leadership of the Progressive National Front.

The visit, heavily criticised by mainstream Jordanian politicians, was "only intended to join efforts of two parties who meet on common ground," said Dr. Zayadin.

Taysir al-Zibri, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Party, said the meeting with the Syrians dealt with the basic principles that the Jordanian opposition and Syria agree on. While the eight parties agree on the principle of peace with Israel they oppose the Sept. 13 Oslo accord and the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, he said.

According to Dr. Zayadin, the Jordan-Israeli treaty lacks fundamental elements. "It does not restore to use our full rights in water. It gives the right to the Israelis to use our lands... our fertile lands, and launches a partnership agreement that was not even signed with an Arab country."

"It was also done unilaterally," Dr. Zayadin said.

Dr. Zayadin said the timing and the manner in which the treaty was signed brought along "lots of disappointments.

"Not only was it done hastily and unilaterally but also it fell short of fulfilling the people's aspirations and ambitions," he asserted. "Even the government's promises and assurances that the treaty will bring economic prosperity proved to be false," he said.

Mr. Hammad stopped short of commenting on or criticising the visit. Participants in Sunday's meeting said he implied the government had some information that the invited Jordanian party leaders had tried to harm the Jordanian government.

"All of the information they obtained was false. We didn't insult or try to harm the Jordanian government in any way," said Dr. Zayadin. "What we said in Syria is not new. We have already said it several times in Jordan."

"The insults were directed at Israel and not at Jordan," he added.

But the secretary general of the mainstream al-'Ahd party, 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, asked the minister during Sunday's meeting to enforce article 21 of the 1993 Political Parties Law that prohibits any relations with non-Jordanian parties or organisations.

"We are afraid if these violations continue they will influence the political parties process in the Kingdom," Mr. al-Majali said.

Mr. al-Majali called on the eight parties to issue a statement explaining their position "to put an end to all of the controversies sparked by their visit."

"Our stand was and still is very clear," Dr. Zayadin said. "We have never uttered a word against Jordan and the Syrians were also careful not to."

Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam told the Jordanian team that President Hafiz al-Asad did not meet with the Jordanian opposition parties because "he was careful not to do anything that might influence Jordanian-Syrian relations," according to Dr. Zayadin.

But Mr. Khaddam said Syria had tried several times to unify its stand with Jordan but failed. According to Mr. al-Zibri, Mr. Khaddam contended that Jordan did not respect its agreement with Syria and acted unilaterally in making peace with Israel.

In a meeting last week with representatives of the foreign press, His Majesty King Husayn had said the political parties' visit to Syria will be looked into.

Islamic Deputy 'Abdallah al-'Akayllah said a heated discussion took place during the Sunday meeting but party leaders agreed that there should not be any infringement on the law or on Jordan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dr. al-'Akayllah, a member of the executive bureau of the Islamic Action Front party, which declined the Syrian invitation, said the agenda also included important issues such as the election law, the redivision of governorates, the introduction of new measures to facilitate procedures during elections, the political parties' budgets and the dissolution of some parties that have less than 50 members.

Mr. Hammad called on political party leaders to present their parties' budgets to the ministry as stipulated by the law. He set March 15 as their deadline.

Governorates will be redefined and divided into districts to implement the decentralisation policy, the minister said. Also, registration procedures will be facilitated and the ballot committee and the vote-counting committee will be unified in one.

The minister also proposed that the registration for voting be extended from 45 days to five or six months and that votes have special cards that carry their national number.

"We didn't give our response to the minister's proposals," Mr. al-Zibri said. "We didn't even discuss the law in substance or the number of constituencies and the number of deputies per districts. There has been no mention of changing voters' age from 19 to 18 which is against the constitution itself."

Al-Kabariti Telephoned by Egyptian Counterpart

JN2202171195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti this morning received a telephone call from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Musa informed al-Kabariti of the outcome of his recent European tour, and of developments related to various issues of common interest. The two exchanged views on these issues.

Al-Kabariti underscored the importance of Jordanian-Egyptian coordination, which promotes the interests of the two fraternal countries as well as joint Arab action. The two also discussed several issues related to the meetings of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee slated to be held in late March.

Syrian Foreign Minister Accused of Interfering

JN2202175495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Statements attributed to Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on Jordan's position in the peace process have sparked fiery reactions in various Jordanian political quarters which accused him of trying to "interfere in Jordan's domestic affairs, harm bilateral ties, and depart from the norms of dealing among the sisterly Arab states."

Informed sources in Amman told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Syrian vice president made these statements during a meeting held last month with leaders of a number of Jordanian parties opposing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. The sources said the statements included "a clear slander against Jordan and bilateral ties, and a departure from the norms of dealing among sisterly Arab states. The sources said these statements constituted an attempt to "interfere in Jordan's domestic affairs."

The same sources said that Khaddam "spoke about Jordan and its constitutional institutions in a degrading way, which is not in harmony with the Syrian leadership's position and runs counter to the Syrian calls to cleanse the Arab atmosphere and close ranks to face common challenges." The sources also said the Syrian vice president said his country is prepared to work with the Jordanian opposition parties to "abort the peace treaty" with Israel. This is considered, the sources say, an attempt to interfere in Jordan's domestic affairs and a violation of past treaties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Talks on Returning Palestinian Students to Syria

JN2102135695 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 22 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian political party sources close to Syria have told AL-BILAD that they held contacts with the highest political echelons in Syria. The talks were meant to facilitate the return of Palestinian students who have been banned from returning to Syria following recent measures taken by the Syrian Government. These measures ban Palestinian students and temporary passport holders from entering Syrian territories. Hence, students who were outside Syria when the ban went into effect could not return to their universities with the exception of a few who had connections.

In another development, the same sources told AL-BILAD that they telephoned Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam who said he knew nothing about these measures, which, he believes, were a security decision. He justified these measures by referring to what happened in Egypt after the signing of the Camp Davis agreement and the noticeable activities of Israeli spies there. He said that the Syrian security services will not be able to keep track of the Palestinians residing in its territories.

Amman To Continue Issuing Passports to Palestinians

JN2002101795 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 20 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned from informed sources that most Arab countries have not

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

agreed, as yet, to recognize the Palestinian passport, either as a travel document or a document of nationality.

These sources said that under Palestinian pressure, the issue of the Palestinian passport was listed on the agenda of the recent Arab League Council session and that of the Gulf Cooperation Council. However, the issue was ignored by the two bodies without any reason being given.

Higly placed Jordanian sources have confirmed to AL-MAJD that the Jordanian officials informed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his recent visit to Amman, and on the margins of the official meeting and not during it, that they had decided to stop issuing the two-year passports they used to issue for West Bankers but that they were recently compelled to continue issuing these passports following the Arab countries refusal to recognize the Palestinian passport.

The Jordanian officials told Rabin that they will continue to issue two-year passports to the Palestinians in the West Bank for a limited period of time that will not go beyond 1997, after which a definitive Jordanian decision will be made on this issue in light of what the situation will be in the Arab arena.

ICRC Group Visits 'Jordanian Afghans' Convicts

JN2002100695 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Feb 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] yesterday visited the al-Suwaqah Rehabilitation Center and met with its director Colonel Hasan Al-Simadi, who briefed them on the center's facilities.

- The delegation held separate, lengthy interviews with those convicted in the "Jordanian Afghans" case. It verified the soundness of legal procedures, detention conditions, and treatment in prison.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the ICRC delegation was carrying a list of the names of these convicts and asked to interview them without supervision. This was done with the full cooperation of the center's administration.

The delegation verified that there was no inhumane treatment or illegal procedures against those convicted in the "Jordanian Afghans" case.

Paper Criticizes Opposition Boycott of Parliament

JN2202083695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Gimmick For a Day"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamist and leftist deputies stage- managed some sort of a parliamentary coup yesterday when they collaborated to prevent the last meeting of the Lower House of Parliament in the second ordinary session from convening. That they did to stop the House from discussing a draft legislation that would repeal three laws which prohibit the sale of land to Israelis and impose an economic boycott against the Jewish state.

While the opposition has thus succeeded in putting off debate of the bill until Parliament reconvenes either in May or June, as is widely expected, we wonder whether the whole move was in fact [nothing] more than a public relations stunt. For it does not make much political sense, at least from a judicial point of view, to start a tug of war between the government and the coalition of parliamentary groups opposed to the peace treaty over this particular issue.

The government of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir had hoped that Parliament would have yesterday referred to its Judiciary Committee a 1973 law that prohibits and penalises the sale of real estate to Israelis, a 1985 law that slams total economic boycott against Israel and a 1953 law that forbids trade and commerce with the Jewish state. Some of these legislations carry the death penalty for violators. There are clearly other laws that are less obvious or direct, which can be construed as repugnant to the peace treaty.

The dispute over this issue is unnecessary because, from a strictly juridical sense, any treaty that is ratified by the government supercedes any other national legislation. This means that any piece of legislation, which is contrary to any such treaty, will not be upheld in a court of law. Since the Jordanian-Israeli treaty was approved by both chambers of Parliament and was accordingly ratified by the King, there can be no grounds or justification to oppose any legislative initiative to amend or repeal laws that run counter to the letter or spirit of its terms. As for the emotionally charged issue of land sale to Israelis, there is in place sufficient safeguards to prevent any panic. Foreigners, including Israelis, can purchase land only within municipal boundaries and even then only after a cabinet approval. If many Jordanians feel so strongly about not selling real estate to Israelis or any other group of foreigners, all they would have to do is exercise restraint and avoid becoming easy prey to manipulators and exploiters. True, national sentiment can be best promoted by public awareness of all probable dangers that may lie ahead. But people do not need the stick of the law to stop selling any part of the homeland to any side, be it Israeli or otherwise.

Just as there is no law and there can be no sustainable law that would force people to sell land to foreigners, the same goes for the areas of trade and commerce. The government, on the other hand, is legally bound to do all that is necessary to streamline all the country's laws so that they become harmonious with its old and new international obligations. Any other course would be both illegal and illogical.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Paper Assails Israel Stand on NPT, Backs Egypt

JN2202091395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Feb 95 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Israel and Nuclear Arms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In this era of peace and openness, and amid the constant talk about regional cooperation among the Middle East states in various fields, it is very strange that Israel continues its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] while calling on its Arab neighbors to do so.

After examining the Israeli justifications for not signing the NPT, we actually do not find any convincing reason for this position which casts doubt on the premeditated Israeli intentions toward the region's people. These people no longer pose a threat to Israel following all the disasters that befell the elements of their traditional strength.

What increases our doubts about this Israeli position, which reveals much about what is harbored against this region's present and future, is that there is almost international consensus that Israel possesses tens of nuclear warheads and the means to deliver them to the farthest point on Arab territories. This fact should raise issues that go beyond demanding that Israel sign the NPT.

Given all this, it is only natural for Jordan to support the Egyptian viewpoint which stresses the need for Israel, exactly like any state in the region, to commit itself to signing the NPT. This international treaty is scheduled for debate in New York in April. Signing this treaty will be considered as a final commitment which needs no further renewal.

While expressing our astonishment over and doubts about the Israeli position that Tel Aviv will only sign the NPT two years after a comprehensive peace has been achieved in the region, we urge the Arab brothers to collectively adhere to the demand that Israel sign this treaty and open its nuclear installations for inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Information Ministry 'Official Spokesman' Appointed

JN1802102495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Feb 95 p 29

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y has learned that it has been decided to appoint Nayif Mawla, secretary general of the Information Ministry, as an official spokesman in addition to his post.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israeli Operation Said 'Imminent'; Villages Bombed

NC2302072395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National News Agency [NNA] has quoted a source in the Amal Movement operations room saying that the Agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA], acting on Israeli orders, intends to close schools [in the occupied border zone], indicating that an Israeli military operation is imminent. The source added that the blockade imposed by the Israeli Navy against Tyre is a military and security measure rather than an economic one. The same source revealed that the Israelis are preparing for a military operation via the sea.

The Israeli military and naval blockade of Tyre Port and its shores continues amid an Israeli bombardment of defenseless villages in every sectors and intensive flights by Israeli warplanes, which have conducted several mock raids in the south and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Reports from the south this morning speak of Israeli artillery shelling and strafing with machine guns against several villages. The NNA correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that at 0600 this morning the areas of Jabal al-Rafi', al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Habbush, the outskirts of Kafr Rumman, 'Arab Salim, al-Luwayzah, Jarju', Mlikh, and the Nab' al-Tasah basin came under Israeli artillery bombardment. The correspondent adds that two Resistance groups attacked the occupation posts in Jabal al-Tuhra, al-Suwayda', and 'Ali al-Tahir. More of this is contained in the following report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Security activity in the south escalated noticeably early this morning. The occupation troops' artillery pounded villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah with machine guns and rockets. The Israeli aggression began at 0530, when al-Jabal al-Rafi' and al-Wadi al-Akhdar came under fire from occupation artillery. Later the shelling reached Kafr Rumman, Habbush, Jisr Habbush, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, al-Jabal al- Rafi', Mlita, and al-Luwayzah. These areas came under heavy and intensive 105, 120, and 155-mm fire from the occupation posts located in al-Suwayda', al-Burj, 'Ali al-Tahir, and Jabal al-Tuhra. At 0710 the shelling against these villages intensified and Israeli helicopters used large-caliber machine guns to strafe the woods, hills, and plateaus in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly al-Wadi al- Akhdar and the al-Zahrani River basin.

Security sources in al-Nabatiyah report that at 0530 Resistance fighters carried out a series of attacks against positions of the Israeli occupation troops and their Agents in Jabal al-Tuhrah, al- Suwayda', al-Burj, and 'Ali al-Tahir with machine guns, rockets, and artillery. An ensuing clash lasted over 30 minutes. [end recording]

We have just received the following from our newsdesk: The NNA correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reported a short time ago that the heavy Israeli bombardment is still in progress, targeting the outskirts of Habbush and Kafr Rumman. Citizen 'Ali Hasan Salih has been wounded. The correspondent added that Israeli warplanes are conducting low-altitude and intensive flights over the al-Nabatiyah area, drawing ground fire.

'Violent' Clashes Detailed

NC2302074195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports received from the south a short time ago say the violent clashes between the Islamic Resistance mujahidin and the Zionist occupation troops along the al-Nabatiyah front are still in progress. At 0620 the Islamic Resistance heroes attacked the occupation positions in al-Dabshah, al-Tuhra, and al-Suwayda' with machine guns and rockets. They completely controlled the scene of the battle.

The reports indicate that huge fires have broken out at the al-Suwayda' position following the Islamic Resistance shelling, which destroyed the post's installations and vehicles. The Islamic Resistance heroes pounded the al-Zaffatah Zionist position, destroying several vehicles inside.

The occupation troops are shelling the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights and the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah.

Attacks Thwarted; No Casualties

NC2302084695 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers proved again today that they are the stronger side, repulsing the terrorists who tried this morning to attack several positions and also tried to shell other positions. The details are as follows:

At around 0500 today these positions monitored movements by terrorist groups, which started out from Kafr Rumman toward the Kafr Rumman position with the intention of attacking it. But the soldiers manning the position waited for this cell until it reached the outskirts of Kafr Rumman, away from the residential areas, before showering it with bullets and artillery shells.

At around 0600 today the terrorists launched an attack on the 'Arab Salim position but it failed. The garrison thwarted the attack immediately and the terrorists were forced to flee after suffering casualties.

Our correspondent cited eyewitnesses that the Sagger missiles the terrorists used in their attack on 'Arab Salim exploded in the air, demonstrating the panic that spread among the terrorists as a result of the quick, sudden SLA retaliation.

These attacks were timed to coincide with an artillery bombardment of the al-Mabi Tahir, Kafr Tibnit, and al-Dabshah positions from al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kafr Tibnit. The terrorists also fired rockets and used machine guns on the SLA positions from Kafr Tibnit's residential areas. The soldiers manning the positions shelled the terrorists' positions accurately. The SLA and Israeli artillery also fired back.

There is guarded calm on the fronts now while Israeli fighters stage reconnaissance sorties over al-Nabatiyah and the surrounding areas.

As we said, the SLA soldiers suffered no casualties in these attacks. The extent of losses in the terrorists' ranks is not known.

Sidon Under Blockade; Casualties Cited

NC2302102395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Navy broadened its scope of operations today. After its blockade of Tyre, it started a similar measure against Sidon Port. Our security correspondent reports that the Israeli Navy told fishermen who were fishing on the high sea off the Sidon coast to return to the shore, not to set sail again, and to stop fishing. It fired bursts from machine guns in their direction. The Israeli Navy is tightly monitoring the commercial ships entering the Port of Sidon. It subjected a Russian commercial ship carrying marble to inspection in three stages on the high sea. The ship's cargo was inspected and the identity of those on board checked before the ship was allowed to enter the Port of Sidon. It remains to say that the Israeli Navy applied the same measures to commercial ships in 1990.

Meanwhile, an Israeli soldier was wounded and a member of the Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army] was wounded in a series of attacks conducted by resistance fighters this morning against the positions of al-Dabshah, al-Tuhra, and al-Suwayda'. A security source has reported that the attackers used rockets and machine guns in their attacks. The Israeli soldier and the member of the Lahd forces were wounded during the attack on al-Dabshah post.

The Israeli artillery responded by shelling the southern villages, wounding five persons, who were taken to hospitals in the region. A convoy of relatives of the detainees is still waiting before the Red Cross office in al-Nabatiyah to travel to the occupied border region to visit their relatives detained at the al- Khiyam prison. The Kafr Tibnit crossing point remains closed.

Fadlallah: Israel Staging Raids To Raise Morale

NC2202130995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah says he believes that Israel is carrying out raids on the south as a result of the vacuum created in the political arena of the peace process. He pointed out that Israel is trying to occupy the political and security arena with such attacks so as to activate the political atmosphere and raise the morale of its soldiers and Agents.

His eminence stated that the Arab and Islamic nations are not concerned about all these games of reconciliation and settlement. He added that the region can never accept them. He believes that the United States is trying to mobilize Europe in the wrong direction.

Iranian Official Meets Birri, Views Regional Events

NC2202184995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri met this afternoon with Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North African Affairs. Khonsari was accompanied by 'Abbas Shakuhi, director of the Middle East Department [name and title as heard]; and Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh.

They exchanged views on regional developments, particularly actions of the Israeli occupation forces in south Lebanon.

After the meeting, Khonsari affirmed that the Iranian Government backs Lebanon's heroic defiance of the Israeli threats.

Asked about any negotiations between Iran and Israel regarding the fate of the detained Israeli pilot, Khonsari said that this is a lie that is occasionally repeated.

The Iranian delegation then left for the Bustrus Palace where it met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Claims No Information on Pilot

LD2302124595 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Feb. 23, IRNA—Director General of Foreign Ministry in charge of Arab Middle East and North Africa affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, held separate meetings with Lebanese parliament speaker, Nabih Birri, and foreign minister, Faris Buwayz, here Wednesday night.

Khonsari told reporters in Beirut that the Israeli regime by intensifying its oppressive policies was attempting to prevent the Lebanese from continuing their anti-Zionist struggle. Asked on the allegations made by Zionist prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, on indirect negotiations between Iran and Israel on the fate of the Israeli pilot, Ron Arad, the hojjat ol-eslam said, "Rabin is a notorious liar Jew."

He stressed that Iran has repeatedly made it clear that it has no information on the fate of the Israeli pilot who was engaged in bombing innocent people of Lebanon.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel has claimed that Arad's plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986 and that he was being kept in Iran.

Khonsari who is here heading a delegation has already discussed the current developments in Lebanon and the region in separate meetings with Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, speaker of the Shiite Supreme Islamic Council, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and secretary general of Hizballah, Hassan Nasrallah.

U.S. Questions on Security Arrangements Detailed

MM2202153495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanese Responsible Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Washington Asked Many Questions About Hizballah and Found It Strange That Ahmad Jibril Was Not Arrested"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Lebanese responsible source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, during the recent U.S.-Lebanese security talks, the United States asked why some Palestinian leaders who entered Lebanon from time to time were not detained, and asked many questions about Hizballah.

The source said that, during the negotiations, the American side asked the Lebanese side why the Lebanese authorities failed to apprehend Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], who recently entered Lebanon and spent a few days there.

Jibril had entered Lebanon via Damascus about three weeks ago and attended the funeral of a Hizballah fighter in Burj al-Barajinah in the Beirut southern suburbs. That fighter was killed in a joint operation carried out by Hizballah and the PFLP-GC in Wadi al-Saluqi in southern Lebanon against Israeli occupation forces and the pro-Israel South Lebanese Army militia.

The source said that the first session of the security negotiations had been a session of questioning and criticism of the Lebanese side, and that the Americans questioned Lebanon on every security issue, implicitly blaming Lebanon for not taking measures that Washington thought would have been useful in consolidating security in Lebanon.

The source said that the U.S. side asked many questions about Hizballah and its role in Lebanon, and that the questions reflected Washington's great interest in that party, on the grounds that it considers it the "spearhead" of all fundamentalist movements in the region and on the basis of its firm links with Iran. One of the questions asked by the U.S. was: Are members of that party allowed to enter Beirut International Airport?

The source said that it is unlikely that the security negotiations between the two sides will resume soon, particularly as the Lebanese side is still studying the results of the first round. There are conflicting Lebanese views, with some expecting the U.S. ban on U.S. travel to Lebanon to be lifted and others ruling such a move out. Many question the importance for Lebanon of having that ban lifted when no progress has been made in the peace process, especially on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, and when Washington has taken no effective steps to boost Arab and international aid for Lebanon's reconstruction.

Amal Leader Warns Against 'Zionist,' U.S. 'Schemes'

NC2302075395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic Amal leader al-Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi has called for celebrating and participating in International Jerusalem Day, which he called the day of Imam Khomeyni. Speaking in his weekly Koranic talk, al—Musawi rejected any type of settlement with the Zionist snakes and U.S. beasts. He noted that the pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria can be faced only by resistance and confrontation on every level.

Al-Musawi warned against the Zionist and U.S. schemes that seek to stir internal crises. He pointed out that the resulting danger will involve both Lebanese Muslims and Christians. He called for unity of rank and solidarity among the Lebanese to face the Zionist danger.

Buwayz Warns of Dangers in Delaying Peace Process

NC2302121495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 23 Feb (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has warned against the serious repercussions of the current stalemate in the peace process, particularly along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and the effect on the Middle East region. Buwayz added that if the peace negotiations are not activated in the next month or two, the peace process as a whole will be slated for a two-year delay, thus opening the door wide to uncertainty.

In an interview with Tele Liban last night, Buwayz pointed out that putting off the peace process will drag the region into acute confrontations between various political currents and peace options, where the extremist option that rejects the peace process will prevail over the positive option that backs peace in the Middle East. Buwayz said he expected that in two years the region would witness major changes in position and in the psychological mood of the Arab public against Israel's intransigence and rejection of the peace process.

The Lebanese foreign minister strongly criticized Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' policy toward the peace process, describing it as fluctuating and ambivalent. He

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

accused him of being behind the stalemate in the region's peace process. Buwayz added that Rabin is afraid of presenting a complete plan for peace before the Israeli election and is also reluctant about developing the peace process with Syria and Lebanon following the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and under the current U.S. Administration. Rabin wants to wait for the results of the coming U.S. election but for now is afraid that he may not obtain guarantees and concessions from the new U.S. Administration, Buwayz added.

He pointed out that the Lebanese Government does not feel the U.S. Administration could seriously activate the peace process, in view of its preoccupation with internal affairs and the ongoing struggle between the Administration and Congress over foreign policy priorities. He added that Rabin's reluctance, the impossible conditions he is putting forward at the peace negotiations, and the weakness of the U.S. involvement at this critical stage are effectively contributing to the stagnation of the peace process. Buwayz warned against the serious repercussions resulting from stepping up the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon. He pointed out that Israel resorts to such escalation with a view to thwarting the peace efforts whenever U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher prepares to visit the region. The Israeli actions in the south are used to serve internal and security affairs, as a trial balloon sometimes and at other times to send political messages to some parties to the peace process, he added.

Buwayz lauded Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid's efforts and activity to find a formula for unifying ranks and for clearing the Arab atmosphere. He noted that it is not impossible to reach the minimum of common understanding among the Arab states to confront the challenges and threats, despite the current division in the region resulting from the Gulf war. He stressed that the main test awaiting the Arabs is the economic challenge. He noted the need to take advantage of the Arab political and economic cards at the negotiations, such as the card of the Arab boycott of Israel and the refusal to sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Al-Hariri Says Israeli Pressure 'Useless'

NC2302080595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has reiterated that a solution lies in the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the south and western al-Biqa'. He stressed that pressure on Lebanon will remain useless and that Lebanon and Syria will not agree to let Israel have hegemony over the region.

In a dialogue following a fast-breaking dinner in his house last night, which he hosted in honor of the cultural societies and clubs in Sidon and the south, al-Hariri said: We all feel the effects of the Israeli attacks in the south and western al-Biqa.' He added: Israel is constantly talking about peace but is continuing to shell the unarmed villages and citizens. If Israel wants to live in peace with the countries of the region, then this peace is within reach. But if it wants hegemony over and control of the region, then peace will be impossible.

He went on: Israel has made no strategic decision on peace, as the Arabs have done. The Israeli action in the south is meant to pressure Lebanon to make it change its position. Lebanon has shown that pressure on it is futile. The Israeli action and attacks will only cause more pain. We have made sacrifices and are ready to make more sacrifices to protect our rights and dignity. We want to liberate the south and western al-Biqa' while maintaining our sovereignty and dignity. He called for a minute of silence in memory of the martyrs of the Israeli aggression.

Prime Minister al-Hariri stressed that an Israeli cultural invasion will be difficult and referred to the foundations of the development plan. He stressed that freedom is not in danger and that the Chamber of Deputies is sovereign. He also voiced his support for establishing a national committee to discuss the elimination of political sectarianism. [passage omitted]

He said: The government has done its duty toward the south, particularly on humanitarian aid. He stressed that the government is not neglectful and many things can be done. He added: No matter how much we compensate the people in the south, we cannot bring back a son lost by a mother. What can we do for the mother whose son or husband is being detained in the Israeli occupation detention centers? We cannot compensate those who lost a martyr, because money will not bring him back to life. We act within our resources. [passage omitted]

On the state's role in facing the expected Israeli cultural invasion if there is a peaceful solution and on the means of strengthening Lebanese cultural bodies, Prime Minister al-Hariri said: Lebanon is a democratic country, a country of freedom. The Israeli cultural invasion of Lebanon will be difficult because our country has lived on openness; it is not closed. The Lebanese people have a strong immunity. If God wills it and there is peace, then it will be difficult to penetrate and destroy the Lebanese people's immunity, which stems from this climate of freedom and democracy. If there is a just and comprehensive peace as a result of Israel's withdrawal, we will undoubtedly face several challenges. We must prepare to face peace if it happens and to stand fast if it does not. We can see that changing the curricula and other educational programs has not succeeded in the countries that signed peace treaties with Israel. We will face many challenges but the nature of our democratic system is our safety valve. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Sources': No Signing of NPT Unless Israel Signs

JN2302055895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in Damascus have confirmed to our radio that Syria will not sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] if Israel does not sign it.

Israeli Refusal Fueling 'Pessimism'

JN2202152095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The date set for renewing the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is approaching. Israel continues to refuse to sign the NPT. Hence, many questions arise. What is the fate of the peace process? What is the position of the U.S. sponsor and the influential international powers? What about the interests of the peoples of the region and the entire international family, since a true and just peace is the only way out of the cycle of violence and the only way to end the threat to the security and future of the region, in view of the importance and vitality of this region?

Israel has stubbornly refused to comply with the requirements of peace, whose frameworks are set by the Madrid conference and UN resolutions. These resolutions were adopted as a frame of reference. This Israeli stubbornness has frustrated all those who want to achieve a true peace that guarantees the rights and dignity of everybody on the basis of international legitimacy.

Israel's insistence on not signing the NPT further increases the pessimism that engulfs the peace process in its entirety. This Israeli position has demonstrated beyond a doubt that Israel does not want to achieve a true peace acceptable to all parties—a peace that creates a suitable climate to achieve security, stability, and prosperity for all peoples of the region.

The pretexts and excuses advanced by Israeli officials and propagated by the Israeli media are no more than an expression of open disregard for the resolutions of international unanimity and the desire of the international community to make the peace process succeed and achieve its conditions first, as a prelude to the required success. It is not logical that nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction should be stockpiled in Israel when it claims it wants peace. How can one party be assured about peace with another party that possesses more dangerous means of threat? This second party refuses to abandon these means under the pretext that it fears certain countries in the region that plan to possess nuclear weapons. Are these pretexts credible to any observer, even if this observer is not impartial? Is it logical that the party that is armed to the teeth with weapons of mass destruction should fear supposed intentions that have no basis in truth?

Iran, the main target of Israeli policy, has signed the NPT and is still committed to it. International observers who are concerned about the NPT have said that Iran is committed to the NPT and that there is no violation. What an amazing excuse Israel has advanced! Who knows, Israel could accuse another state today or tomorrow without any proof as well. As for saying that Israel might join the NPT after comprehensive peace is achieved in the region and after Israel is assured about this peace in two years, this is a ridiculous excuse that will not convince anyone in a world that is governed by laws, rights, and duties—a world that is suffering from a protracted conflict whose essence is Israel's aggression against the honor and rights of others, and not the other way around. Which party should present evidence of its goodwill, the aggressor or the victim; the one that defies international legitimacy or the one that adheres to its resolutions?

Gentlemen: Syria has consistently and unambiguously declared that peace is a strategic option and that international resolutions are a frame of reference that should apply to everybody, provided that equality, justice, and comprehensiveness are observed.

Since the U.S. initiative was launched, Syria has been clear in its acceptance of this initiative because it rests on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and 425. This has opened the door for the peace process. Syria was also clear and honest at the Madrid conference and later in the bilateral talks and in the entire negotiating process that was sponsored by the United States. U.S. and European officials and observers of all persuasions have acknowledged and appreciated this. Syria is serious about peace—peace that ends the state of tension by ending the state of aggression. This means that the removal of Israeli occupation is the prelude to peace, and not demanding the national resistance in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon to stop. The origin of the problem is occupation.

Therefore, nuclear weapons are a more serious and additional threat to the security of the region and that of humanity. For the road to peace to be passable, Israel must remove all the elements of explosion and threat. This mandates that the U.S. and Russian sponsors, all the influential international powers, and the entire international community work for a just implementation of the international resolutions and international laws. This should include everybody and end the state of blackmail and aggression and all other manifestations of ambitions and hegemony. Otherwise, the peace process will continue to be under a threat of collapse and the security and interests of the peoples of the region and the world will remain open to all possibilities.

Commentary on Alleged Arab-Israeli Exercises

JN2302113495 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1904 GMT 22 Feb 95

[Commentary by Yusuf Maqdisi from the "Behind the News" program]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: A few days ago, Israel leaked information on its participation along with eight Arab states in joint exercises off the Tunisian coast related to what it called maritime research and rescue operations within the context of the multilateral talks that will be resumed, under Canada's aegis, in Tunisia in March. Despite Kuwait's confirmation that the report is completely baseless, Saudi Arbia's amazement at how its name was listed in these exercises, Egypt's announcement that there are no plans to take part in exercises with Israel, the Sultanate of Oman's statement that the Israeli report is groundless, the denial of Tunisia and Morocco of the report, and Algeria's questioning of the motives behind these Israeli allegations, despite all this; an Israeli Army spokesman has deliberately ignored these comments on the reported exercises, saying the exercises will be held in the future.

Future, here, does not mean setting March as a date for participation in the exercises, but rather that Israel wants to say that if exercises did not take place on the date it mentioned, they would be held at a later stage. With this it is trying to spread an illusion that the information it leaked on the maritime exercises was not a lie that was exposed, but rather that these exercises and tactical maneuvers were postponed.

The false Israeli report provides clear evidence of the deceptive approach adopted by Israel in promoting ideas that serve its plans to penetrate the Arab scene and depict its relations with Arab states as if they have overstepped the boycott and moved to the stage of joint cooperation. It also seeks to hint to the world that multilateral talks have taken long strides toward establishing the so-called Mideast order.

The fact that the report was proven to be false and that it had to find excuses is not important to Israel. Rather, the important thing for Israel is the results of promoting such fabricated reports in the Arab street.

The main purpose of this is to split Arab ranks, according to the Kuwaiti defense minister, cause confusion in the Arab mind, and even try to cast doubt on any Arab stand that is being adopted to confront the Israeli schemes, like the conference of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states recently held in Cairo, which restated the decisions of the Alexandria summit, lending support to the positions of Syria and Lebanon regarding the restoration of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. These decisions also stressed the importance of realizing just and comprehensive peace and joint coordination and cooperation through activating the Arab League's bodies.

Gentlemen: Israel always tends to fish in troubled waters by adopting misleading and deceptive methods. What helps it carry out its plans is the existence of some loopholes in the Arab situation, such as abandoning solidarity and coordination. An example of this is Israel's exploitation of its participation in the Madrid conference by deceiving Arabs and the world into thinking that it is trying to make peace in the region and that conditions have become favorable for taking part in the implementation of economic, water, tourist, and financial projects in addition to taking part in other committees formed under the multilaterals—to serve, according to the Israeli calculations, as the framework to extend its hegemony over the region in the name of peace which is being negotiated.

However, what were the results of talks over the past four years? Was just and comprehensive peace realized? No, because Israel rejected trading land for peace, obstructed the Washington talks that stemmed from the Madrid conference, and replaced the terms of reference of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 by two unilateral agreements with [Yasir] 'Arafat and Amman on the pretext that the Washington talks no longer had any meaning, as Yitzhaq Rabin said after announcing the Oslo agreement.

Israel went even further when it tried to make the multilaterals serve as an international cover for its incomplete peace agreements, and abrogate the Arab boycott. All that Israel is doing in terms of penetrating the Arab scene is based on what it calls the coalition of peace which was produced by the Cairo four-way meeting and the multilaterals through which it advances toward various areas.

However, the issue that Israel will never be able to handle is its attempt to bypass the Syrian and Lebanese positions, which insist on refraining from participating in the multilaterals before actual progress has been made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Gentlemen: The importance of the positions of Syria and Lebanon lies in the fact that they expose the Israeli approach impeding the peace process and enlighten brother Arabs of the dangers of being dragged into the Israeli policy of setting traps to deal with Arab states one at a time. These positions also call for serious action for achieving Arab solidarity along the bases of coordination and cooperation in the interest of the Arab nation and adopting a policy that is capable of correcting the Arab course in keeping with the bases delineated by the Alexandria summit, which joined Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak and King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz. Such steps would create an atmosphere conducive to reviving joint Arab action and safeguarding it against any Israeli or foreign penetrations, and building the Arab future away from ambitions and the Israeli hegemony.

Calls for 'New Middle East,' Normalization Criticized

JN2302085195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that calling for a new Middle East,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

applauding the inequitable partial agreements, announcing financial companies, and heralding cooperation and normalization [with Israel] cannot lead to real security and stability if the peace process does not yield a just and comprehensive solution that will regain territories, return rights to their owners, lift injustice, and remove the occupation.

The paper wonders: Where are the slogans about prosperity, and where are the development projects, and other things? Moreover, where will the peace process and the Oslo agreement be in the future in view of the apparently unguaranteed consequences if Israel continues to evade the requisites of peace?

AL-THAWRAH asserts that running after Israel and making concessions to it out of good intentions or other purposes have not made Israel show any commitment to a just peace. What has happened has nothing to do with peace regardless of the allegations by some people to the contrary.

The paper believes that the one who signs a blank check for Israel cannot demand anything from it because in such a case Israel will not be interested whether peace continues or fails. It cautions the Arabs to be aware of the real Israeli position and be capable of confronting the threats posed to them before it is too late after they take lessons from the Oslo agreement and its devastating results.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

UN Peace Efforts To Continue Until 1 Mar

LD2202171395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] UN efforts to resolve the Afghan problem are to continue for another month. This point was expressed this afternoon by Mr. Mestiri, the UN's special envoy for Afghanistan, in a news conference to journalists and said: Given the recent developments in the Afghan military and political scene, especially the rise of the Taleban, the UN and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan [ISA] resolved that it should continue its peace- seeking efforts for another month, that is, 21 March 1995. Then a new proposal will be put forward in this respect. Mahmoud Mestiri added: Chaired by Abdol Satar Sirat, a commission has been appointed with Enayatollah Eblagh, Abdol Ahad Karzai, and Soltan Mahmud Ghazi as members for quick restoration of peace and the establishment of a new mechanism. The commission will meet the involved sides and hold detailed talks with them in order to secure the satisfaction of the both sides. Similarly, Mahmoud Mestiri said: The ISA is ready to transfer power but it insists that the power is transferred to such a source that can really represent peace. He asked OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] Secretary General Hamid Algabid, to help the UN in this respect. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent adds that Mahmoud Mestiri, after some days' stay in Kabul, went, yesterday afternoon, to Islamabad. He returned to Kabul this morning. Mahmoud Mestiri left Kabul for Islamabad. At Kabul international airport senior officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry saw him off.

**'New' Brand of Mojahedin Rising

95LA0120A Paris AL-WATAN AL-ARABI in Arabic6 Jan 95 pp 28-29

[Article by Rahimallah Afridi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will students of Afghanistan's religious schools succeed in toppling the mojahedin and restoring peace and stability to the country? It is a question that has been raised persistently for weeks, coupled with questions about who is behind financing and training more than 4,000 fighters from among the Taleban. These fighters have emerged suddenly and occupied three southern provinces within two months and are now threatening Kabul and all the warring conventional factions. AL-WATAN AL-ARABI has observed the phenomenon of the new mojahedin, who carry a rifle in one hand and the venerable Koran in the other, from their stronghold in the town of Quetta and launched an investigation into the secrets behind their uprising against the veteran mojahedin and into the domestic, regional, and international dimensions of this uprising.

In less than three months, one-third of Afghanistan has fallen into their hands and they have occupied important cities, most significantly Kandahar, considered the country's second largest city.

Whereas the latest reports say they are preparing to march on Kabul, the capital, it seems certain that these new mojahedin are posing a serious threat to the future of the Afghan factions that are engaged in a bloody internecine war that is even more devastating than the Soviet invasion era.

But who are these mojahedin who have caught all observers of the Afghan situation and all warlords—some of whom expect the cure and the impossible peace to arrive at their hands—by surprise and who threaten to alter the domestic equation in its entirety?

To date, the information available on these commando units, who have entered the Afghan battlefield carrying the Koran in one hand and an automatic rifle in the other hand to impose peace, is meager.

Information gained by AL-WATAN AL-ARABI in Afghanistan and Pakistan asserts that the new mojahedin are students of religious schools that are considered the biggest in Afghanistan. The so-called uprising of the Afghan shari'ah students against the mojahedin started in southern Afghanistan last September. These students carried out their first major military act last November when a commando unit rescued 30 Pakistani trucks which Benazir Bhutto's government had sent in the direction of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Those trucks were sent as a preliminary test for opening a trade route between Islamabad and the Islamic republics that have gained their independence from the Soviet Union. In that period, the Pakistani Government declared last September its wish to inaugurate a trade route with the Central Asian republics that had been cut off from Pakistan since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Islamabad stressed that this strategy represented a priority for it, especially in its commercial struggle with Turkey and Iran over these republics. Initially, the Pakistanis exerted strong pressure on the warring Afghan factions to facilitate the opening of this route. What is more, Benazir Bhutto demanded that these factions secure protection for Pakistani trade convoys when passing Afghan territory. It is said that Benazir received guarantees to this effect. But armed elements confronted the first convoy that was sent last October and detained 30 trucks. Within 48 hours, a commando unit launched a military operation against those detaining the trucks and liberated the trucks. The unit took that opportunity to control Kandahar. Talk about the Taleban began as of that day. Questions began to be raised at the highest levels in more than one capital about the identity of these unknown fighters and about how they succeeded in rapidly controlling Afghan cities enjoying the strongest military protection. The questioners asked who was behind these fighters who had proved in that operation that they had received military training worthy of special units of regular armies.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The students hastened to impose the Islamic shari'ah on the areas over which they gained control, focusing in particular on fighting the cultivation of drugs and the production of opium. They clashed with major drug traffickers and ousted them so successfully that a leader of the drug trade was forced to flee a province in which he had enjoyed historical influence.

AL-WATAN AL-ARABI information confirms that the students have adopted a smart and successful policy to deal with the parties in the areas they control. They presented the venerable Koran to every military position on which they advanced and appealed to the other fighters to surrender in the name of the Koran. Because of the piety and the strong religious mentality that controls the mind of the Afghan people generally, especially in southwest Afghanistan, defenders of those military positions rushed to surrender. The military power of the Taleban, who possess sophisticated weapons, and general despair over the conflict of the comrades in the jihad against the Soviets played their decisive role in enabling the new mojahedin to prevail over those who were not persuaded by the religious argument.

Purging Afghanistan

With this approach, numerous victories came in rapid succession and included important towns on the Kabul highway, such as Helmand, Qandahar, Zabol, Ghazni, and even Bactia and Wardik that are adjacent to the capital of Afghanistan. Some reports also say that the Taleban have used the method of financial inducements, which is used widely to overturn alliances in Afghanistan. They have been able to persuade a number of amirs of the jihad to disband their armed forces in return for $1.5 million. As for the people, they have given these mojahedin an especially warm welcome in the hope that the mojahedin will rescue them from the anarchy and the daily death that they have experienced since the fall of the communist regime and the mojahedin's triumph in April 1992. The people have also given them this welcome because they have felt that the students are very keen on establishing peace and applying the shari'ah in the areas under their control. This is what Mulla Dawud, a Taleban leader, confirmed when he said: Our sublime goal is to purge Afghanistan of those who have become murderers and thieves in the name of religion; to restore peace; and to ensure an end to the acts of looting and plunder, to the abasement of our women, and to violation of the law.

But it became quickly evident that purging Afghanistan is not so easy. The mojahedin war that has been going on for two years conceals such interests, ambitions, and aspirations among leaders of the conventional historical factions and parties that these leaders are motivated to do the impossible to defend them, even if defending the interests and aspirations results in a confrontation with these students.

Consequently, a large number of mojahedin and factional leaders have declared their wish to fight the Taleban uprising and to confront the Taleban with all means, especially since increasing reports have been talking of Pakistans support for these students.

On their way to Kabul, the students sent a message to Haji 'Abdol Khan, the governor of Nangarhar Province and president of the shura council of the three northern provinces, asking him to help apply the Islamic shari'ah. Haji responded with a threat, saying: The province is secure, and whoever poses a threat to its security and stability will expose himself to danger. He added: We will not permit you to go to Kabul, the capital. This message was followed by a fatwa [religious ruling] from the ulema of these provinces prohibiting drug cultivation and trafficking in the areas within their jurisdiction.

The students tried to spread to and deploy in Wardik's suburbs, but field commanders belonging to various parties rallied to fight them. The students suffered their first military defeat in Khak Rez, Nanjarhar Province when they clashed with Hekmatyar's fighters there.

But the loss of a battle does not mean the loss of a war. Everything shows that the students are carrying on with their strategy and that they have gained control of three provinces to date. Some people estimate the number of new mojahedin at nearly 4,000 fighters. But Mulla Dawud asserts that the number exceeds 10,000 and is likely to increase, thanks to the mobilization of religious school students in the Peshawar area, where a number of Afghan immigrants live.

AL-WATAN AL-ARABI has learned that the Taleban leader was unknown previously and that his name is Mowlawi Ahmad Akhund.

To date, the mojahedin have taken varying positions toward the students, depending on the deployment of parties in the regions controlled by the Taleban. Shaykh 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Islamic Union and an ally of President Rabbani who has a presence in these areas, has acknowledged that the students constitute an Islamic force. But he expressed the opinion that they have no right to speak of the country's political future. It is noticed that the Taleban have avoided engaging in battles with President Rabbani's forces and that Ahmad Masud Shah has taken a positive stance toward them, viewing the new faction as a force that can play a significant role in weakening the Hezb-e Eslami, which is headed by Golboddin Hekmatyar. It is evident that Hekmatyar is the man who fears the students' control the most. He has begun exerting concerted efforts to weaken the Taleban and to prevent them from infiltrating the regions he controls.

Some sources have noted that Hekmatyar is trying to infiltrate the students and to insert some of his supporters among them in order to provoke splits within their ranks. These sources add that Hekmatyar's fear of their control is two-pronged. First, they constitute a military force capable of putting an end to his ambitions and second, he fears the students' negative ramifications

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to drug cultivation and trafficking in Afghanistan. This drug trade forms the main source of Hekmatyar's income. In fact, UN sources expect the students' success to lead to the destruction of more than 70 percent of the drugs in the provinces they control.

Pakistani Role

But what is the true nature of Pakistan's support for the Taleban?

There is no doubt that the simultaneous emergence of the Taleban and the start of implementation of Pakistan's strategy to open the route between Islamabad and the Central Asian republics have played a significant role in linking the two sides. Added to this are reports that assert that the students are graduates of Pakistani religious schools or Afghan religious schools controlled by conventional Pakistani Islamic groups. On this basis, Pakistani and Afghan sources point out several domestic, foreign ,and international Pakistani objectives over which opinions vary and in connection with which questions outnumber answers.

First, it seems certain that Islamabad plans to exploit the Taleban control of these provinces to open a route that links Pakistan's Quetta with the Asian republics and that secures borders and lines of communication which are controlled by robbers and highwaymen. This is why it is said that the Taleban have been founded, trained, and financed by Pakistani intelligence.

Second, some sources talk of an inter-Pakistani struggle. They say that retired General Nasirullah Babar, Pakistan's interior minister and the only surviving official who has had firm and old relations with mojahedin leaders since the 1970s, seeks to prove his strength and influence in the Afghan arena by supporting the students versus the Pakistani military intelligence groups. These sources add that Bhutto's government plans to pull the rug from under the feet of the military intelligence, Bhutto's traditional foe that is still considered a stronghold of General Zia-ul-Haq, Bhuttos former foe. By supporting and bringing success to the student uprising, Bhutto asserts that she has succeeded in dealing with the Afghan crisis at a time when past policies supervised by the military intelligence failed to do so.

Third, leaders of some Afghan parties see in the emphasis put on Kandahar Province, the birthplace of Afghan King Mohammad Zahir Shah who was toppled by his cousin Prince Dawud in 1973, an endeavor by the Pakistani interior minister and some Pakistani circles to bring back King Shah to Kandahar Airport directly. Afghan factions fear the king's return because it will mean the retreat of their strength and their domination of the Afghan people.

What is interesting is that some observers see in the shari'ah student uprising the revival of a past international scenario that was followed successfully with the Afghan mojahedin at the start of their war against the Soviets, when they obtained military and financial support from the United States, Pakistan, and most countries of the world. These observers note that the student uprising emanated from northwest Afghanistan, which is, first, a conventional religious region where ulema and shari'ah students enjoy respect and appreciation, thus helping the student movement to proliferate. Second, the region is close to the golden triangle, where the cultivation of opium between Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran is widespread. This is the crop on which students have declared war at a time when drugs have become a vital issue in the crux of the U.S.-Pakistani relations and when elimination of drug cultivation in this region has become a fundamental U.S. demand.

The more important question is: Will the Taleban succeed in solving the Afghan crisis, in putting a final end to the bloody battles between citizens of the same country, and in entrenching their experiment, which has received popular welcome? This is what the coming weeks will answer.

'Over 400' Golboddin Men Defect to Government Army

LD2202171095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 400 men attached to Golboddin came over to the side of the Islamic Army today around Faryab Province.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY says that 480 of Golboddin's men, including their leader Mola Abdollah, together with their 10 ringleaders from Deyur villages, Faryab Province, joined the forces of the Islamic Army today.

These men are being equipped with 40 various heavy weapons and 400 light weapons. They have been welcomed by esteemed Abdol Karim Arshad and other commanders of Faryab Province.

The men who have joined the state have expressed a readiness to fight henceforth on the side of the Mojahedin and the Islamic Army against the country's enemies.

Government Forces Reportedly Seize Border Port

LD2202165295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During a successful operation, Shir Khan and Gerdab were conquered by the Mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that 200 militiamen were captured during a lightning operation by the Islamic Army launched against the centers and headquarters of the Dostam militia. Three tanks, one anti-aircraft gun, a large number of weapons,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and various amount of ammunition were also seized by the Mojahedin. One enemy tank was also destroyed in this operation.

As a result of this operation, Shir Khan and Aliabad district up to the Gerdab region of Baghlan Province were seized by the Mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army.

Unity Party Will Not Disarm While 'Threatened'

LD2202145995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Representative of Afghanistan's [Islamic] Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami], Mohammad Nateqi, has told reporters in Tehran that his party will only put down their weapons if a government is formed with the participation of mojahed groups with UN supervision in Kabul. The Islamic Unity Party representative said as long as his party is threatened by troops loyal to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Afghan government forces, they will not consider putting down their weapons.

Mr. Nateqi also expressed optimism over the current talks between the Taleban forces and the Islamic Unity Party. [Passage omitted]

India

CSO Releases Growth Rate Projections

BK2102134095 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 15 Feb 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National income is projected to grow at 5.3 per cent in 1994-95 as compared to 4.3 per cent in the previous year, according to the quick estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation [CSO].

The increase in the current fiscal year is largely on account of improved performance of the manufacturing sector even as CSO expects a deceleration in the rate of growth of agriculture. While the growth of the manufacturing sector has been estimated at 8.7 per cent, agriculture is expected to grow at 2.4 per cent. In 1993-94, the growth of agriculture was 2.9 percent and of manufacturing was 3.6 per cent. The performance of the economy in the current year is expected to reinforce the trend witnessed since 1991-92, which has seen a decline in the sectoral share of real income originating from agriculture and allied activities. It has declined from 30 per cent in 1993-94 to 29 per cent in 1994-95. At the same time, the share of income accruing from industry has gone up from 25 per cent to 26 per cent over the same period.

The quick estimates show that gross domestic product [GDP] during the year at constant prices of 1980-81 is likely to aggregate to Rs [rupees] 245,306 crore as compared to Rs 233,042 crore in 1993-94. Population, at the trend rate of 1.8 per cent, is expected to top 904 million in 1994-95. With the growth in national income higher than population trend rate, there has been a rise in the per capita income for the third year in a row. The per capita income in real terms would, according to CSO, be registering a growth of 3.5 per cent in the current fiscal as compared to 2.5 per cent last year. While in 1993-94 it worked out to Rs 2,282, it was Rs 2,363 in the current year.

The revival in economic activity has been borne out by other national accounting aggregates. The gross national product at factor cost is expected to register a growth of 5.4 per cent in the year as compared to 4.6 per cent in 1993-94. Similarly, real national income (net national product at factor cost) is estimated to grow at 5.4 per cent as compared to 4.4 per cent in 1993-94.

A press release issued by CSO states that the advance estimates have been derived by using a methodology being evolved over the last three years taking into account the method used for the quick estimates. This mid-year review is based on anticipated levels of agricultural and industrial production, analysis of budget estimates of government expenditure and performance of key sectors like railways, communication, banking and insurance. Sectorally, income originating from the agriculture sector has been fixed at Rs 71,072 crore. Under the subgroup of industry, accrual of income was Rs 4,944 crore from mining and quarrying, Rs 50,462 crore from manufacturing and Rs 6,412 crore from electricity, gas and water supply. Within services, the subgroup of financing, insurance, real estate and business services is expected to witness a deceleration in the growth rate from 8.5 per cent in 1993-94 to 6.2 per cent in 1994-95. CSO expects an income accrual of Rs 10,671 crore from construction, Rs 45,485 crore from trade, hotels, transport and communication, Rs 28,260 crore from financing, insurance and real estate and of Rs 28,000 crore from community, social and personal services.

Rao Defends Foreign Investment in Infrastructure

BK2202051295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has said that foreign investment is necessary for the development of infrastructure facilities in the country.

Addressing a public meeting at Baroda, Mr. Narasimha Rao said it is necessary to generate more power for rapid industrialization and providing jobs to the unemployed youths. He made it clear that Indian companies participating with foreign companies in the power sector will have major equity participation. Allaying the fear of those opposing the participation of foreign companies in the development of infrastructure facilities, Mr. Rao said he will not do anything at the cost of the country's self-respect. The prime minister also said that without economic development it is difficult to remove poverty in the country.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Problems of Northeast Industrialization Viewed

BK2102142595 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 15 Feb 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Breaking the vicious circle"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi seems to have realised at last that industrialisation of the north-eastern region calls for some special dispensation even as it sticks to its decision not to promote projects in the public sector. This is evident from the Centre's proactive approach to the proposed Assam gas cracker project, estimated to cost over Rs. [rupees] 3,400 crores. On determining the cost of putting up a similar project in an easily accessible, commercially more attractive location, it was found that the Assam venture would cost an extra Rs. 377 crores. The Union Government seems to have agreed to take care of the cost differential by providing a cash subsidy of Rs. 377 crores—this works out to almost 12.5 per cent of the project cost—over three years, starting 1995-96 and help the Assam Government rope in Reliance Industries for the gas cracker. The underlying assumption is that if the private sector is to be induced to invest in capital-intensive ventures in the North-East, attractive subsidies to offset poor logistics are necessary.

Given the poor resources of the Governments of the northeastern States, the only option for New Delhi is to persuade the private sector to invest in this region. The Central Budget for 1993-94 made a feeble attempt to attract industries to the region, as also in other backward areas, by granting a five-year tax holiday from the year of production. Hardly any industrial house has come forward to avail itself of the incentive. The Centre's neglect over the years has cost the north-eastern States dearly. The Union Government chose to be content making small plan allocations with industrialisation receiving the least priority. Moreover, there is a huge backlog of infrastructure waiting to be created—roads, railways, telecommunications.

It is a fact that the committed subsidy involves a hefty amount by itself sufficient for a cluster of medium-scale projects. That the Union Government has started paying greater attention to the region is also borne out by its decision to compel air taxi operators to include destinations in the northeast in their flight schedules.

It is a happy augury that some of the north-eastern States are crafting initiatives to attract industrialists. For instance, Assam has recently introduced a scheme to promote non-tea ventures, particularly power plants, by tea companies having a stake in that State. The scheme provides for deduction of costs in setting up select industries from the computed agricultural income. The Williamson Magor group has responded to the Assam initiative by agreeing to put up the 90 MW [megawatt] Namrup extension power scheme at an estimated investment of over Rs. 300 crores. Meghalaya has initiated steps for full privatisation of its electricity board. Studies have established the scope for raising tea plantations in Manipur and Arunachal but a breakthrough has not been possible because of the ban on acquisition of land and the resistance to import of labour.

The north-east has not quite figured in the economic policy of the country: for instance, less than one per cent of all the money disbursed by the financial institutions since Independence has flowed into this region. Disregard seems to be mutual, with the people suffering a sense of alienation from the rest of the country. Factory output is low and per capita incomes are among the lowest in the country, making the region hardly attractive even as a market for goods. Militancy thrives, deterring further investment. The vicious circle has to be broken.

Towers Being Built To Boost Communication Network

BK2302042195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ministries of communications and information and broadcasting have prepared a plan under which combined towers are being installed in different parts of the country for strengthening TV program and communication network. This was disclosed by the communications minister, Mr. Sukh Ram, at a function in Himachal Pradesh. He inaugurated a 10-kilowatt DRPT and microwave repeater station in Mandi District yesterday.

Sri Lanka Offered $8 Million Line of Credit

BK2302041995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has offered an $80 lakh line of credit to Sri Lanka and agreed to consider increasing Sri Lankan exports to Indian markets. The Indian offer was made at the third meeting of the Indo-Sri Lankan subcommission on trade, finance and investment in Colombo yesterday. The commerce secretary, Mr. Tejinder Khanna, who led the Indian delegation, told newsmen that unlike the previous line of credit the latest one can be used for the purchase of capital goods, consumer durables and consultancy services. He said the Bangkok agreement will be expanded for increasing the volume of bilateral trade. The daylong talks covered areas of cooperation in rubber, ceramics, railways, and oil exploration.

NPT Extension Linked to U.S. Disarmament Efforts

BK2102134295 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 14 Feb 95 p 7

["Worldview" column by Peter Lynn Sinai: "US upping the ante on Indian option"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesman's assurance on Saturday [18

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

February], that India would not unilaterally cap production of fissile material, has not dispelled doubts raised by Ms Robin Raphel's Congressional testimony last week on USA's "multipronged" non-proliferation agenda. The US is separately trying to orchestrate a declaration on a fissile material cut-off by the five nuclear weapon powers in time for a policy address by President Clinton to mark the NPT's [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] 25th anniversary next month. There are hints that India might be persuaded to join such a call, well before a global freeze on fissile material and a Comprehensive Test Ban come into being, both Indian proposals of long standing.

In anticipation of CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty], a seismic monitoring station is already in place in Bangalore and one is being set up in Pakistan. There are signs of India heeding the US admonitions regarding the deployment of its missile capability, while Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto offers a "zero missile regime" coupled with a South Asian Nuclear Free Zone. With bombs in its basement, Pakistan claims to have halted production of enriched uranium at Kahuta. A purely regional freeze could dangerously foreclose India's nuclear option as effectively as joining NPT. Confident as the US seems of muting Indian opposition to indefinite extension of NPT globally, it seems it cannot wait to try to impose its own regional nonproliferation agenda.

Regional approaches, Ms Raphel stressed, could reinforce and advance global efforts. Describing South Asia as "one area where a regional conflict has the potential to escalate to a nuclear exchange," the US seeks to justify mounting pressure on both India and Pakistan to cap their nuclear and missile programmes. Once the discriminatory NPT has been extended in May, US pressure will surely be stepped up, first to roll back and then to eliminate, if possible, South Asian nuclear and missile capabilities. These aims of US policy have been repeatedly stressed by top US officials of the Pentagon and the National Security Council, no less than the Department of State. The latest US nuclear doctrines have even begun to target countries it suspects of developing nuclear weapons.

Defence Secretary Mr Perry, on return from his visit to South Asia last month, confirmed Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons, but also bemoaned the continuance of the Pressler Amendment that limits the resumption of US arms supplies to it. In the name of 'even-handedness', Pakistan's clandestine weapons programme is equated with India's stock of fissile material for its peaceful nuclear programme. Mr Perry reiterated USA's geo-strategic interest in a security relationship with Pakistan go far beyond the modest defence cooperation now mooted with India. It must be left in no doubt that India's cooperation, to the extent possible, on global disarmament issues does not entail acceptance of USA's regional agenda.

Globally too, there are limits to India's co-operation. Talk of capping, rolling back and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons and missiles worldwide cannot draw any comparison between the massive armouries of the nuclear weapon powers and the limited stocks of unsafeguarded fissile material in South Asia. Even after START II reductions have been completed, the US and Russia would each hold arsenals that could destroy the earth many times over. Britain, France and China have yet to make a beginning in dismantling their more modest stockpiles. This is hardly the safer world to which India is committed.

While President Clinton's joint communique with Prime Minister Mr Rao did call for ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, the US evidently meant no more by this than it accepted in the NPT, where nuclear disarmament in Article VI has been left as but a pious wish. In pressing for the indefinite and unconditional extension of NPT in April, the US has reiterated that it intends to perpetuate its own nuclear hegemony. This global effort of the US is not one which India can identify.

Since 1967, when the draft NPT took the discriminatory form that India found unacceptable, there has been an unwritten understanding with its sponsors, USA, USSR and UK, that India would not campaign against it, but neither would they press India to join. Now that the US is mounting pressure to accept NPT type obligations, there is no reason why India should not campaign vigorously against NPT's indefinite extension. A five-year extension followed by a revision, to provide a time frame for nuclear disarmament, would enable India's participation. Conditional extension has been urged by several NPT signatories in September and January Prepcoms. Consensus for a longer extension, of 10 or 15 years, might be achieved with tacit Japanese and German support.

India's support for CTBT should now be limited to coincide with a brief extension of NPT and made permanent only when a time-frame for disarmament is agreed. During this time-frame, voluntary safeguards should apply to threshold states, as to weapons powers, to be replaced by random safeguards for all states once nuclear disarmament is achieved. For the proposed global fissile material freeze, India should ensure that verification procedures rely on some such economical safeguards regime and not the costly and discriminatory safeguards of the present NPT.

The US wants to show progress on the CTBT and a fissile freeze to allay developing countries' misgivings on perpetuating NPT unchanged. India's interests are far removed.

Delegate Assails Pakistan at Human Rights Commission

BK2202140895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah has charged Pakistan with sending trained militants to India, which led to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

untold number of cases of murder, rape, and brutalization of women and children in Jammu and Kashmir. Replying to anti-Indian charges leveled by the Pakistani delegation in Geneva today, he warned Islamabad against any misadventure over Kashmir. The National Conference leader urged the UN Human Rights Commission to look into Pakistan's dismal record of human rights and recalled the latest case of two Christians sentenced to death for alleged blasphemy. He also said violence in Karachi has increased manifold and people are murdered every day.

Five Border Officers Killed in 'Militant Ambush'

BK2202155895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, five Border Security Force [BSF] men were killed and four others injured when militants ambushed their vehicle near Doda town yesterday. According to official sources, the BSF party was on its way to raid a militant hideout in Bhalapranth area when they came under the militant ambush.

Demonstration Held To Protest Pakistani Ruling

BK2302034995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Activists of the Delhi State Masihi [Christian] Action Committee held a demonstration in New Delhi today to protest against the death sentence passed by a Pakistani court on a Christian boy and his uncle. Later, representatives of the committee submitted a memorandum to the Pakistani High Commission. The Church of North India has demanded the unconditional release of the accused and revocation of the death sentence passed on them.

It may be recalled that a Pakistani court has passed a death sentence on two Christians—Selamat Masih, 14, and his uncle Rehmat Masih, 40—on charges of writing anti-Islamic slogans on the wall of a mosque. Both of them are said to be illiterate and have appealed to the high court to reverse the sentence. However, Muslim militants held a demonstration before the Lahore High Court on Monday. They threatened to kill the judge if the death penalty on the two persons is reversed. Meanwhile, the key prosecution witness in the case, Maulvi Fazle Haq, who earlier said he wanted to withdraw his complain today changed his mind again. Haq gave a new power of attorney to the prosecution lawyer. A senior lawyer, one of the seven asked by the judges to advise them on the case, urged the court to dismiss the appeal against the sentence by the lower court. Most other lawyers acting as friends [as heard] of the court have called for the Christians to be acquitted for lack of evidence.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Denies Reports of Talks With Israel

LD2202185295 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb 22, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi here on Wednesday [22 February] denied newspaper reports that Iran was holding indirect negotiations with the Zionist regime through Germany.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, a German newspaper in its Tuesday issue qouted unidentified security officials in Bonn as saying that the talks had been going on for years and had now reached a decisive stage.

Mohammadi said Iran does not recognize the Qods occupier regime and has no information about the fate of the Israeli pilot.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "We have asked those countries that have been influenced by the false inspiration of the Zionist regime, to pay attention to the fate of the Iranian diplomats kidnapped in Lebanon and taken to Tel Aviv in 1980.

Asked about the recent report provided by the U.N. representative, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl on the status of human rights in Iran, he said that the report was a repetition of the unfounded, unevidenced and intentional charges already leveled against Iran.

Mohammadi said that the world's public opinion looks into such reports reluctantly at a time when the issue of human rights is being exploited as a political means to serve the illegitimate objectives of the global arrogance in line with the U.S. diplomacy.

He said that the special representative of the United Nations did not exercise impartiality in his report and that it was influenced by the allegations of the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mohammadi said that the critical comment of Galindo Pohl on murdering the Christian pastors by the elements of the terrorist Mojahedin e-Khalq Organization (MKO) was completely baseless and intentional and that Galindo Pohl refrained from reflecting the reality, adding that he even failed to condemn this criminal and terrorist action.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Galindo Pohl's comment on inequality between the men and women in Iran as being based on imprecise generalization and added that if Galindo Pohl studied the issue thoroughly, he would admit that the moral and material rights of women in Iran are being respected according to the Islamic law much more than the West.

Mohammadi said that other criticism of Galindo Pohl, though emanating from misunderstanding of the philosophy of legal code in Islam, is also not based on reality

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

because fortunately the cases that Galindo Pohl discusses are very rare in an Islamic society such as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Reports Said 'Propaganda Ploy'

LD2202180395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1555 GMT 22 Feb 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sixteen years ago, Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his soul, declared World Jerusalem Day [last Friday in Ramadan]. Every year, on the eve of this day of God, the Zionist regime undertakes a new political and propaganda ploy in order to undermine the anti-Zionist nature of the Islamic revolution and, through this, weaken the great Jerusalem Day rallies.

Yesterday, three days before World Jerusalem Day, a Western newspaper announced that Iranian representatives have for some time been holding talks with their Zionist regime counterparts on the release of the imprisoned Israeli pilot, who went missing eight years ago in southern Lebanon.

The people of Iran and the Islamic world are familiar with such lies and have already heard the Zionist regime's claims about selling arms to Iran. The dissemination of such reports will not only not undermine the decisive policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its unstinting support for the aspiration of liberating Palestine, it will also expose those who spread such reports more than ever before.

Senior officials of the Zionist regime have for a long time spoken of the Iranian danger, describing Iran as the biggest threat to Israel. Moreover, they describe Iran's support for the anti-Zionist Islamic resistance groups of Lebanon, as well as its support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad of Palestine, as the biggest threat to the trend of compromise. It does not seem logical for Iran to be the biggest threat to the Zionist regime and, at the same time, for Israel itself to arm its enemy with various weapons and hold talks with it.

According to political analysts, one of the important reasons for this contradictory behavior of Israel is that this regime has met with complete defeat in the compromise trend and, by creating a foreign factor to account for its defeat, it is trying to hide this defeat and its aggressive nature, which is the main reason for this defeat.

Last night's meeting of the PLO Executive Committee in Cairo, chaired by 'Arafat, which was held to review the principles that this organization accepted a year and a half ago and on the basis of which the Oslo compromise took place, has shown that the trend of compromise is in a stage of crisis. The supporters of compromise, too, have to a great extent lost their gullibility with respect to this trend. In fact, the compromisers have already begun the stage of retreat from their previous beliefs.

Since last year, there have been two solutions to the Middle East crisis: compromise and extending the all-encompassing struggle. Therefore, the current defeat of compromise will definitely strengthen the other solution. The uncompromising solution, which sees the all-encompassing uprising and struggle as the only way for the liberation of Palestine and noble Jerusalem, described talks with the Zionist regime as useless and a clear political mistake right from the start. Therefore, the uncompromising trend places the extension and intensification of the intifadah at the helm of its policies.

According to political analysts, the extension of the confrontation with the Zionist army and the initiatives of the Muslim people of Palestine and Lebanon in this all-encompassing Islamic struggle have put pressure on Israel, which has led to more human losses and material damage to this regime than any war with Arab governments.

What then has kept this regime going? The extensive political, military, and economic assistance of the West, especially America, and the continuing emigration of Jews to the occupied territories. These two factors—financial and human resources—have extended the usurping existence of this regime. This situation makes it quite clear that, despite the trend of compromise of certain Palestinian factions, the Islamic world must enter the political arena and make its views clear in this critical juncture.

Jerusalem Day is a day of referendum in which the Muslims of the world will determine the fate of noble Jerusalem and Palestine with an awareness of what is going on. Without a shadow of a doubt, the presence of the Islamic ummah on the political arena and their support for the intifadah will influence the political dealings of the region and the world on the Middle East crisis. Today, Muslims and Islamists are two of the major factors influencing the policies of the region and beyond. The presence of Muslim peoples will, in fact, determine the degree of this influence. [video shows archive film of clashes in occupied territories and last year's Jerusalem Day marches in Tehran]

Jerusalem Day Events Planned

NC2302112295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 23 Feb 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tomorrow is Jerusalem Day, when the Muslim people in Islamic Iran and worldwide participate in marches, renew their pledge, and display their hopes for Jerusalem, disavowing the enemies. While fulfilling their obligation to fast and offer Friday prayers, they will be keeping alive the dream of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

liberation of the first qiblah [direction in which Muslims offer prayers] and third holy site of the Muslims.

Sixteen years ago the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, peace be upon him, declared the last Friday of the auspicious month of Ramadan World Jerusalem Day and thus the struggle of the Islamic world against the world of apostasy and the powers of world arrogance entered a new phase.

This day was chosen in circumstances when the Islamic world was confronted with many difficulties, primarily the catastrophe of the occupation of Palestine. The choice of the last Friday in the auspicious month of Ramadan—the day when the most important battle at the time of the advent of Islam occurred—to revive the goal of the liberation of Jerusalem established the great ideological parameters [preceding word in English] in the arena of the confrontation between Muslims and the Zionist regime. It also created the conditions for awakening the dormant conscience of the Muslims on issues that their coreligionist brothers are facing. It also generated a greater sense of solidarity and a convergence toward greater unity and cohesion among Muslims for solving the problems of the Islamic ummah.

The other reasons making it important to name a particular day for reviving aspirations for the liberation of Jerusalem and the Palestinian issue are that the sanctities of the Islamic world have not been profaned or violated anywhere else and have never been so endangered or threatened on any other front. The value of the cries of death to Israel on the day of God, Jerusalem Day, lies in the Muslim people pondering the homelessness of over 4 million Palestine Muslims and similar events that are being continually repeated in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They should identify the roots of this disarray, which has thwarted the progress of the Islamic world, and combat them.

Consideration of the plight of other Muslim brothers will bring down the barriers imposed during the era of colonialism, barriers that separated Muslims, deepen the trend of the struggle of the Muslims in Palestine and throughout the Islamic world, and deter the enemies from adopting a hostile stance against Muslims.

The cries of "Palestine should be liberated" tomorrow will reveal the reality that Muslims everywhere want the liberation of all Palestine and do not believe in its dismemberment. The marches tomorrow, on the day of God, are expected to be a popular display categorically rejecting imperialist plots and compromise.

The people's extensive participation in the Jerusalem Day marches will assure the risen people of Palestine that they enjoy the massive support and backing of over 1 billion Muslims in their revolution. They will never be alone in their confrontation with Zionism, which is armed with all the weapons of mass destruction, and the Islamic world will constantly be on their side.

Minister Sheykholeslam Comments

LD2302095095 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 23 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Deputy for Arab-Africa Affairs Hoseyn Sheykholeslam said that the international Qods [Jerusalem] day, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadhan as proposed by the late Imam Khomeyni, had cemented solidarity among world Muslims and strengthened their determination to liberate the occupied Palestine.

In an exclusive interview with the Persian daily 'IRAN', he remarked that the Zionist regime would tighten security measures every year on the threshold of Qods day to suppress the rallies in occupied territories. "This shows how much the regime fears the international Qods day ceremonies," he noted.

The official further said that enemies of Islam especially the Zionist circles, would resort to all forms of propaganda against Iran in order to disappoint people.

On future of Damascus-Tel Aviv negotiations, Sheykholeslam commented that according to the available evidence, no peace deal was expected to be sgned between Syria and Israel in a near future.

Further elaborating, Sheykholeslam noted that Syria wanted Golan Heights in complete and without a single Jewish settlement which would not be accepted by the Zionist regime.

Diplomatic Delegation Arrives in Lebanon

LD2202142195 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 22 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Feb. 22, IRNA—An Iranian diplomatic delegation, headed by Foreign Ministry director general for Arab Middle East and north Africa, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari, arrived here Tuesday [21 February] evening and was welcomed by Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials.

Upon his arrival at the airport, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari said that his visit aimed at exchanging views with Lebanese officials and leaders of revolutionary groups and organizations.

Khonsari said that bilateral relations as well as the latest developments in Iran and Lebanon are among other issues he is to discuss with Lebanese officials.

During his stay here, Khonsari is to meet with Lebanese senior officials including, president, parliament speaker, prime minister and foreign minister as well as prominent Lebanese ulema.

Commentary Views NATO's 'Spurious' Propaganda

NC1702220095 Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Feb 95 p 8

[Unattributed commentary: "NATO and Islamic Fundamentalism?!"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the collapse of the eastern bloc and the end of the Cold War, the Western countries, especially the United States and Britain, started carving out a new enemy in place of communism in order to create conditions for perpetuating its existence, which dates from the Cold War era and the fight against communism. This is because if there is no "hypothetical enemy" there is no justification for the existence of this organization and the astronomical expenditure for the citizens of Western countries which are its members!

Simultaneous with the cresting of the Islamic Revolution, the Western mass media initiated extensive and spurious propaganda regarding the term "Islamic fundamentalism." By using the connotations of this term in the English language, they sought to convince the Western citizens that the Muslims combatants want to return to the past and are recalcitrantly opposed to the present Western civilization.

In fact, by using this propaganda ploy, they sought to incite the Western public against revolutionary Muslims. The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and its repercussions after it had directly endangered the Western interests in Iran and in the Islamic world, resulted in awakening and activating the Muslims against the West and Westernization. Hence, the media of the powers of world arrogance became the front line of the Western ranks in fanning the negative propaganda against "Islamic fundamentalism" and in instilling Western minds with ideas of hostility toward Muslims.

This deceptive propaganda was carried out on such a large scale that today, after the collapse of the West's traditional enemy, that is, communism, we see that its replacement by a new enemy named "Islamic fundamentalism" did not elicit any major reaction in the West and it is almost becoming the reason for the continued existence of NATO!

The NATO secretary general stated openly: "The threat from Islamic fundamentalism is one of the important dangers that the West is facing after the end of the Cold War." It is interesting to note that he added: "There is no animosity against Islam as a religion and we should differentiate between Islam and principled fundamentalists." He also stressed: "We should not underestimate the dangers that stem from Islamic fundamentalism."

History has clearly proved that the West's relations with Muslims, especially in the past two centuries, have never been based on friendship and goodwill. Plunder and pillage of moral and material wealth, planting despotic puppet regimes, efforts to efface Islam and to distort the Muslims' cultural identity, and so forth, characterize the black performance record of the West with Islamic countries and the Third World. The Islamic awakening movement came into being to counteract this black performance.

The Islamic movements were formed to combat the ill-omened phenomenon of Western domination and colonialism and the objective of revolutionary Muslims is to return the past prestige and grandeur to the Islamic lands. The path to this objective is paved with opposition to tyranny, oppression, and to a flippant and superficial attitude to religion which is a corollary of the current Western civilization. These constitute the mainstays of their struggle. If this is the meaning of "Islamic fundamentalism," then Muslims are certainly fundamentalists. Only, this fundamentalism is vastly different from the one that is the subject of Western propaganda!! The segregation of Islam from "Islamic fundamentalism" will also not solve any problem of the West.

Ostensibly, the Westerners are guilty of two basic blunders. First of all, they equate the "Islamic world" with the eastern bloc and second they consider "Islamic fundamentalism" and "communism" to be intrinsically similar. These two analogies are not correct as regards historical, geographical, and cultural factors. Therefore, if the "policy of deterrence" proved effective against the eastern bloc, it will certainly not work against the Muslims.

Instead of using the policy of hostility and animosity against the revolutionary Muslims and of displaying NATO's fangs and talons the Western echelons should make the effort to comprehend the reality and developments taking shape on the international plane, especially in the Islamic countries. Of course, in this regard they can avail themselves of the services of the Orientalists, Islamologists and so on, as well as of their espionage organizations. They will then be able to understand that the revolutionary Muslims have risen after the bitter experience of two centuries of closer relations with the West and have no other objective except safeguarding the honor, independence, and the lofty ethical values of their own homelands.

They only want a civilization based on their religious and national values and relations based on justice. It is obvious that if others do not accept this basis for relations and seek domination and continue to indulge in the fantasies of their colonialist past, they will become the catalysts for confrontation with Muslims.

NATO's baring of its fangs and talons can have no effect but to heighten the hatred of the Muslims who have been watching their destiny in the ill-omened clutches of the West and their local puppets for the past 200 years. The Islamic Revolution experience has blazed the way for their liberation. Regardless of the outcome, the war between the West and Islam is to the benefit of the Muslims. this is because in the current conditions, the Muslims have nothing to lose. It is the West that will have to pay the price of war with Muslims. The Muslims meet their enemies head on with the slogan: "One of the two blessings—victory or martyrdom!" They do not consider NATO and its ilk of any consequence and any warnings to them would be futile.

The best option for the Western officials and the West would be to review their relations with the Islamic world

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and to forge new and just relations with Islamic countries. Otherwise, the Muslims will be ready for jihad and war.

Japan 'Committed' to Karun Dam Loan

LD1702205095 Tehran IRNA in English 1858 GMT 17 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 17, IRNA—Japan's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Terusuke Terada said here on Friday [17 February] that Japan is studying the granting of the second installment of a loan to complete the Karun Dam project in Iran. Speaking at a press conference, he said that Japan was examining the issue, and described it as "a very sensitive one requiring careful examination".

The American daily 'LOS ANGELES TIMES' had reported on Wednesday that Japan would delay extending the loan to Iran due to the pressures of the U.S. Government. Earlier the U.S. Government had claimed that the Japanese have decided to postopne a dlrs. 450-million loan to Iran under U.S. pressure.

The German News Agency (DPA) had quoted U.S. officials as claiming that American President Bill Clinton during his talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, last month opposed the granting of loan to Islamic Iran.

According to the LOS ANGELES TIMES Japanese officials had agreed to the U.S. demands to postpone the loan some two weeks. The reports did not elaborate that what promises have been given to the Japanese Government by the U.S. officials to postpone the loan.

The Clinton government has also tried to put a stop to Tehran-Moscow cooperation in building two 1,200 megawatt nuclear reactors in Iran. [Words indistinct] announced that it will not abandon the dlrs. 800 million qroject to complete the Bushehr atomic power plant.

Despite the DPA and LOS ANGELES TIMES reports, no Japanese official source had informed Iran of any postponement in the loan.

Japan has committed itself to extend a 150 billion yen loan in three installments to Iran for completion of the Karun Dam project. Iran has already received the first installment and is due to receive the second installment of the loan.

Meanwhile, the JAPAN TIMES in its Friday issue quoted another Foreign Ministry official as saying that Japan for the moment was planning to delay the second part of the 150 billion yen loan. He said however that Tokyo has not decided to halt the official development loan.

Terada elsewhere in his speech today said Japan favours permanent extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and believes that all states that have not signed the treaty yet should join it.

170 NPT member states are due to hold a meeting in the United Nations to discuss the extension of the treaty.

The Zionist regime has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty yet.

Local 'Experts' Repair Power Station

NC2202080795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Feb 95

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Sari]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time our experts have carried out basic repairs to the Martyr Salimi unit at the 4,400-megawatt power plant in Neka.

The plant manager added: Usually, experts from the plant's construction company carry out repairs to such a massive plant but our country's experts gained the experience and, for the first time, were able to carry out comprehensive fundamental repairs to the plant's unit number three.

He added: The repairs took 95 days to complete, 38 days quicker than repairs to unit number four by foreign experts. The manager of the Martyr Salimi unit at the Neka power plant announced: Iranian experts repaired unit number three, saving 1.5 million German marks in foreign exchange. With the unit becoming operational and joining the national grid 38 days sooner, over 27 million kilowatts of extra electricity has been generated, something that was not factored into earlier projections in rials.

Statistics Released on Non-Oil Exports

LD1802214195 Tehran IRNA in English 2130 GMT 18 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, IRNA—A some [as received] of 6,085,000 tons of non-oil commodities worth rls. 6,243 billion (dlrs. 3,568 million) have been exported to different world countries over past ten months of the current Iranian year (started 21 March).

According to a customs official, the figure shows 31 percent and 12 percent increase in weight and value respectively as compared with the same period last year. He said that the exported items included carpets, pistachio, ironware, chemicals, hide, copper and livestock.

He noted that hand-woven woollen and silk carpets weighing 27,000 tons worth rls. 2,316 billion stood at the top of the exported goods with an increase of 11 percent in weight and 14 percent in value as compared to the same period last year. 83,000 tons of pistachio worth rls. 523 billion had also been exported, he said, adding that the figure was by 8 percent in weight and 5 percent in value less than last year.

During the same period, the official noted, 1,157,000 tons of iron and steel worth rls. 435 billion had also been exported, showing a decrease of 4 percent in weight and 15 percent in value.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He referred to 140,000 tons of chemicals worth rls. 315 billion as the other exported items and said that the figure revealed a 37 and 55 percent increase in weight and value. 13,000 tons of copper and aluminium worth rls. 185,000 billion as well as 11,000 tons of clothes worth rls. 143 billion have also been exported. The clothes export has increased by 219 percent in weight and 269 percent in value as compared with the same period last week, he pointed out.

Divorce Rate Jumps 82% in Hamedan Province

LD2002154495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1300 GMT 20 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the registration office in Hamedan Province announced that 12,438 couples were married in the province this [Iranian] year, 968 cases more than last year. But Sa'id-Ahmad Qeshmi also said that 912 divorces were registered this year showing an increase from last year's 502 divorces.

The information indicates, he said, that the rate of divorce has increased by nearly 82 percent this year while the number of marriages increased only by eight percent. From every 100 marriages, seven led to divorce while in the previous year only three led to separations.

There has been no research on the divorce-rate increase in Hamedan Province, but social experts believe mounting economic pressure and unemployment are among the most important causes.

According to Ahmad Khoram, general governor of Hamedan Province, the rate of unemployment in the province reached 21 percent, while the average rate of unemployment for the rest of the country is nearly 11 percent.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.